Student Parleys Call 2 Old Parties 'Identical'; Support Anti-Lynch Bill

SEP 22 1940

CHICAGO, — Severe criticism of both President Roosevelt and Wendell Willkie was the keynot of the election campaign stand planning conference of the Ameri- adopted at the third annual fall planning conference of the American Student Union at its closing sessions this week.

The conference was called to outline a national program of action for college and high school students returning to the campus this month.

The "programmatic identity" of the Republican and the Democratic parties ld to a "support of no party" statement, emphasizing "we do urge our chapters to campaign for any local or congressional candidate pledged to restore neutrality and peace to the United States."

Attack was made on the Burke-Wadsworth conscription bill, characterized as "a subversive gag to regiment the minds and bodies of 12,000,000 Americans." Herbert Witt, national executive secretary, had told the student union that "if our representatives betray us by passing this bill, we shall immediately launch a mighty campaign for its repeal."

Guy Stoute of New York University urged a drive against Negro discrimination in the college system. Earlier resolutions had asked support for the Geyer anti-poll tax bill and the anti-lynching measure.

A presiding committee of 16 headed by Mark Hopkins of Ohi and Marquis DeJamon of Howard University, Washington, was elected by the 200 delegates.

Student Federation Quits Congress

Washington Post
Washington D.C.

Youth Organization Charged With Failing To Fulfill Aims

DEC 31 1940

By the Associated Press

New Brunwick, N. J., Dec. 30. The National Student Federation of America, representing about 100 colleges, pulled out of the American Youth Congress today.

By an 87-24 vote, the Federation, one of the founders of the Congress in 1934, withdrew as an affiliate in a resolution which declared the Congress "is not fulfilling its avowed aims of representing all American youth."

Miss Frances Williams, of Westfield, N. J., administrative secretary of the Congress, protested the withdrawal, asserting that "the people who have accused the American Youth Congress of being dominated by the Reds are those opposed to fair labor standards and other social gains."

A Federation resolution urged "full cooperation of all youths with the spirit and letter of the National Selective Service Act."

The delegates rejected a resolution urging shipment of food to Europe under the Herbert Hoover plan.

Student Leader Condemns Chat

New York, Dec. 30 (AP).—Herbert Witt, national executive secretary of the American Student Union, declared today the President Roosevelt's speech of Sunday night indicated the President was "leading us into war."

"I thought the President made a very fine statement of his policy, which this convention has already characterized as leading us into war," he said.

Asked whether the union was a "Communist bloc in colleges in the United States," Witt replied:

"There are Communists in the American Student Union, and there are also Democrats, Republicans, Socialists and Labor Party groups, but it is clear that the Communists are far from forming a majority."

The convention pledged the union to "unabating activity" to defeat any proposal to establish Government work camps for unemployed young men.

(Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, speaking to the international students service conference at New Jersey College for women on Saturday, declared that "every young person, boy or girl, should give a yeaf's service to the Nation."

(I believe work camps are good for us all," she said.)

Hillman Evades Reply On Negro Hiring

'Don't Worry' Is Only Answer to Youth and Negro Delegation When Charge of Discrimination, Wagner Act Violation Is Made

NOV 13 1940 (Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 12.—Leaders of the American Youth Congress charged today that labor defense committee commissioner Sidney Hillman "refused to commit himself" to take any steps to bar contracts to firms which violate the Wagner Act and which refuse to employ Negro workers.

Daily Worker

After a conference with Hillman, Joseph Cadden, secretary of the Youth Congress, declared that the Labor Commissioner's attitude was "evasive and unsatisfactory."

Other Youth leaders who conferred with Hillman included John Darnell, president of the National Student Federation, Thelma Dale of the Southern Negro Youth Congress; Marcella Moore of the Youth Section of the National Negro Congress; Roy Lancaster, Youth Director of Labor's Non-Partisan League; Hudson Wells and Morris Topping of the Washington Youth Congress, and Myrtle Powell, recording secretary of the AYC.

The Youth leaders protested particularly against the armaments contracts awarded to aircraft manufacturers who systematically refuse to hire Negroes.

"DON'T WORRY"

Cadden pointed out that as a result of this policy the vocational training program financed by the federal government was excluding Negroes and that this was "a direct violation of the appropriations act which forbids racial discrimination."

New York

Hillman's only answer when he was confronted with these complaints, Cadden said, was to reiterate:

N. Y.

"Don't worry. It's being taken care of."

"When we asked what was being done to take care of it," Cadden added, "Mr. Hillman refused to commit himself and allowed the Youth Congress visitors to understand that actually nothing was being done to correct the abuses we referred to."

NOV 13 1940

The interview with Hillman will be reported to a meeting of the executive assembly of the American Youth Congress meeting in Washington, Nov. 26-27.

At this meeting plans will be made for campaigns to wipe out "abuses being perpetrated in the name of National Defense." A drive for passage of the American Youth Act will also be mapped.

HEDGES ON FORD

Cadden said that Hillman again remarked "Don't worry" when the Youth Congress delegation asked why Henry Ford had been awarded huge airplane contracts along with other Wagner Act violators.

"He seemed to take the position that this was no concern of the Youth Congress," Cadden added.

Another proposal on which the AYC delegation received no satisfaction was that maladministration in the present youth training program in the interest of arms expansion be corrected and that the more extensive youth training program in the American Youth Act be substituted.

Members of the delegation were indignant because Hillman virtually boycotted Roy Lancaster, youth director of Labor's Non-Partisan League. They reported that Hillman refused to answer any of Lancaster's questions because he represented the Non-Partisan League which is headed by John L. Lewis.

Hillman Refuses To Answer AYC Race Questions

NOV 16 1940

Sidney Hillman, labor's representative on the National Defense Commission on Tuesday told an American Youth Congress delegation that the "National Defense Program could not be expected to solve all the problems of racial discrimination."

Washington

Further, when confronted with the fact that contracts were being let to industries that made a policy of not hiring Negroes, Mr. Hillman insisted he was being "told something he did not know," but that Dr. Robert Weaver, Negro adviser on his staff, was handling such matters.

Tribune

For the country as a whole, only 1,500 Negro Youth are enrolled in vocational training classes. Approximately one-third of this number are being trained in Washington, D. C. where employment possibilities do not exist. Organized Negro youth, nationally and locally, are protesting the failure of the National Defense Commission to provide adequately for the training and placement after training of Negro youth, and insist that the Commission take the necessary steps to abolish the widespread discrimination against Negroes in the National Defense Program.

The Negro Youth Federation at its next regular meeting Sunday, November 17, at the Twelfth Street YMCA, at 4:30 p. m. will discuss "The Problems of Negro Youth Under the National Defense Program."

Washington

The discussion will be led by Dr. W. A. Hunton, chairman of the labor committee of the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress, and will be participated in by trainees from the local schools as well as by several nationally known Negro youth leaders. All Negro youth interested in this problem are urged to attend and formulate plans for meeting this serious situation.

Comprising the delegation which called on Mr. Hillman Tuesday were:

D. C.

Joseph Cadden, executive secretary American Youth Congress; Roy Lancaster, youth director Labor's Non-Partisan League; John Darnell, president, National Student Federation; Marcella Moore, secretary National Negro Congress, Washington Council; Hudson Wells, president CIO Construction Workers' Union; Morris Tepping, president, Washington Youth Council; Myrtle Powell, Recording secretary, American Youth Congress; Vivian Liebman, American Youth Congress staff; and Thelma Dale, president, Negro Youth Federation of D. C.

YOUTH CONGRESS LAUDS STEPS TO CURB ARMY DISCRIMINATION

Chicago Bee

DEC 15 1940

Responding to protests lodged by the American Youth Congress against Negro discrimination being practiced in the Federal Defense Training program, U. S. Commissioner of Education John W. Studebaker has addressed a memorandum to State Departments of Education calling for more equal treatment of Negroes.

The American Youth Congress had called attention to violations of the Appropriations Act which provides that "No trainee under the foregoing appropriations shall be discriminated against because of sex, race or color." Youth Congress delegations visited Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt and Defense Commissioner Sidney Hillman, as well as Dr. Studebaker, asking that action be taken to guarantee observance of the law at present being violated by State Departments of Education throughout the country.

As a result, Dr. Studebaker addressed the memorandum to the State Departments of Education pointing out that "this part of the law as well as other parts will be observed." "To assist in securing this result," he wrote "I hope that the defense training program in your State will provide for Negroes a sufficient number of courses and adequate equipment to give them training in a proportion, against all persons taken into training during the remainder of the current fiscal year, equal to the ratio of Negroes on the rolls of the State Employment Service as of April, 1940."

Commenting on the action taken, Joseph Cadden, executive secretary of the American Youth Congress thanked Dr. Studebaker but added that "although this is an important step in the right direction, we are still interested in seeing the Law is observed as passed by Congress. We hope that Dr. Studebaker's memorandum will increase the number of Negroes given the right to participate in the training program. But we are confident that discrimination cannot be eliminated by providing for the training of a certain number of Negroes.

"The Law is very clear. No person applying for training or participation in the training should be discriminated against. The increase of the ratio of Negroes will decrease present discrimination but will not eliminate it. We believe that equal treatment will be given all, regardless of race or color, only when the Federal Government announces that it will withhold funds from any State Department of Education which fails to observe the Law in this connection."

The section of the memorandum dealing with this problem as circulated by Dr. Studebaker, follows:

Chicago Bee

"Non-discrimination in Defense Training—The appropriation act recently passed by Congress designed to furnish aid to the States in the organization and operation of defense training programs provided

Chicago, Ill.

"No trainee under the foregoing appropriations shall be discriminated against because of sex, race or color; and where separate schools are required by law for separate population groups, to the extent needed for trainees of each such group, equitable provision shall be made for facilities and training of like quality."

"In the preparation of plans for the defense training programs in your State it is understood, of course, that this part of the law as well as other parts will be observed. The problem here is to translate into terms of definite action what is obviously the intent of the law. To assist in securing this result, therefore, let me say that I hope that the defense training programs in your State will provide for Negroes a sufficient number of courses and adequate equipment to give them training in a proportion, against all persons taken into training during the remainder of this fiscal year, equal to the ratio of Negroes on the rolls of the State Employment Service as of April 1940. This is a definite objective toward which to aim. Bear in mind that it deals with ratios on a State-wide basis. I fully realize that in providing training for Negroes on this basis it will appear that more Negroes are being trained than can immediately be employed. Some delay in employment is also occuring among white people who have been trained. I have the assurance of representatives of the Defense Commission that in view of the large percentage of Negroes who have not had opportunity for training in the past and the probable need for the employment of these Negroes in industries essential to national defense, it will not be expected that they will all be readily or immediately employed but it is certainly clear that if they are given essential training they will possess valuable assets which will facilitate their employment. The Employment Services can be depended upon to cooperate in every way possible if the schools request the assignment of Negroes."

YOUTH DEMONSTRATES FOR RIGHT TO VOTE

DEC 28 1940

Amsterdam News New York, N. Y.

Part of the group of young people who took part in the Right To Vote Demonstrations recently in Birmingham, Alabama. These young people, organized by the Right To Vote Campaign of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, walked down busy streets in the pouring rain with placards illustrating the denial of 10,000,000 in the South to vote because of the poll tax, the "lily-white" primaries, registration restrictions, and outright intimidation.

The Democratic American Youth Congress of St. Louis

DEC 13 1940

These young men and women representing all races and creeds of the Greater St Louis area as members of the St. Louis branch of the American Youth Congress, met at the city library last Friday night to discuss many problems of this urban center, and to make plans as to how St. Louis might become a leader in carrying forward such programs tending to make a larger per cent of the younger people more liberal minded.

At the present time the officers and members of this democratic organization are holding conferences in various neighborhoods of the community in the interest of helping the many poor families of the city who find they are not able to pay the high prices for coal, in keeping with the city's smoke abatement program.

Mrs. Virginia Halley, chairman of the coal commission and Walter Heartsill, executive secretary of the organization are leading the fight against city officials who announced Sunday that the price of coal for those families who buy coal by the basket will be "cut" to 25 cents for 60 pounds, whereas the people were paying 40 cents for 80 pounds.

The American Youth Congress contends, along with numerous other organizations, that the new plan as announced by Smoke Commissioner Raymond Tucker will not help the poor families because the families will have to go to yards to get the coal furnishing their own baskets, and pay 25 cents for only 60 pounds of coal. — Blakely photo.

TUNNEY GROUP SCORED BY YOUTH CONGRESS

Called 'Misinformation Bureau' —Simon Denies Red Charge

Attacks on the National Foundation for American Youth, of which Gene Tunney is chairman, and on its director, Murray Plavner, developed yesterday here and in Chicago.

The Chicago statement, received over the name of Joseph Cadden, executive secretary of the American Youth Congress, attacked Mr. Plavner in connection with statements he had made concerning the Congress and the "peace mobilization" that is to be held in Chicago. It called the Youth Foundation a "misinformation bureau," and continued:

"This does not surprise us. But we are surprised to find Plavner bestowing great honor upon Youth Congress. He is so in habit of calling all things such as peace and democratic liberties which he finds objectionable the brainchild of A. Y. C., that he is now conferring upon us credit for being entire peace movement in America.

"In all modesty we must admit that we are not only Americans who believe in keeping America out of war and who are opposed to regimentation. Emergency peace mobilization, which is to be held in Chicago Labor Day weekend and which Plavner in his confusion gives us credit for, is sponsored by Committee to Defend America by Keeping Out of War, composed of hundreds of prominent adults from all walks of life. Its chairman is the Rev. John B. Thompson, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Norman, Okla., and noted theologian. Fifteen thousand Americans will come to Chicago for mobilization which is called 'to defend America, to keep America democratic, to keep America out of war.'"

In New York, Abbott Simon, organization secretary of the American Youth Congress, denied a charge by Mr. Plavner that Mr. Simon and his organization are communist.

Mr. Simon said:

'Mr. Plavner's statement is a farrago of sheer nonsense. I am not nor have I ever been a member of either the Communist Party or the Young Communist League. Such personal attacks as Plavner's are made on us not as individuals but in an attempt to smear the Youth Congress through the use of misrepresentation and sheer falsehood. I have been elected as an official of the Youth Congress in an open democratic manner by delegates who officially represent organizations such as the Y. W. C. A. Councils and the National Intercollegiate Council and many other youth groups with a total membership of more than 5,000,000."

Another attack on the Youth Foundation was made by Lewis Conn, executive secretary of the Campaign for Youth Needs, 112 East Nineteenth Street, who charged that Mr. Plavner had failed to offer the young people of America more than a negative program.

Negro Labor News

American Youth Congress Is The Nation's Powder-Keg For A Social Revolution; Active In the South; Roosevelt Stronghold

8-3-40 Houston, Texas

By C. W. RICE

The American Youth Congress which was organized about six years ago has been successful in regimenting the youth of this nation into a most powerful movement for a complete political and social revolution.

The organization which represents more than 5,000,000 persons of all races and classes is admitted to be dominated by the Communist element.

This was evidenced at a conference at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin when those who attempted to oust the known Communist group were put out themselves.

The Congress is composed of organizations, including farm youths, sharecroppers, laborers, students, religious groups, poltical youth groups and YM and YWCA groups.

The leadership represents the best minds of America. They are college professors, publishers of papers, attorneys, Dean of Religious colleges, and politicians of no mean ability. The most encouraging aspect of the movement is that it has the blessing of the First Lady of the Land, Mrs. Eleanor D. Roosevelt, while President Roosevelt has in the past treated the organizaion cooly and differed with his wife sharply over the policies of the organization.

Many observers think that the youth movement is the stronghold for the president's re-election for a third term.

The members of the youth movement in every community are the most diligent workers. They know how to organize, they are willing to pay the price of organization, they will attend their meetings, even hitch hike theirway, they are not concerned whether they sleep in a fashionable hotel or a tent, the sessions of their meetings are interesting from beginning to end.

Of course the youth movement does not include by any means all American youths who are eligible to participate.

Those who are criticising the Youth Congress for being Communisic, are exerting no effort to offset its influence.

It is well-known though that a well organized and systematised minority can always defeat an un-organized majority.

Active In The South

One of strange aspects of the Negro Youth Congress is that some of it most miliaant leaders are white and Negroes leaders from the deep South One would think that the Southern white youth with its tradition of segregation, disfranchisement and lynching of Negroes would be aloof to take part in movements that give recognition to Negroes from their own section, but this is true. Nevertheless in fact the white youth of the South has become more interested in their problems of social justice than Negroes.

A discription of how the Youth Congress treats the Negro and his problems is told in the following extracts from a letter from Miss Alma Strong, a delegate from Detroit to the Youth Congress in Lake Geneva during July.

Editor of The Negro Labor News:

"I did attend the Youth Congress at Lake Geneva. The delegates were housed in two large tents, one for boys and one for girls. There was no segregation, because of races.

"When the roll of delegates was called over 500 delegates answered. More than a hundred of them were Negroes. The delegates represented over 5,000,000 American youths. As I mingled in each session, I never for one time became race conscious. The Southern white youth seemed most interested in Negro youth problems. The largest delegates were from trade unions who knew what organization meant.

8-3-40

"At no time when a colored youth wanted to speak was he refused recognition.

"The fundamental program adopted for 1940-41 will be jobs for four and one- half million of youths, better housing and better educational opportunities especially for Negro youth.

Youth Congress Urges End of Army Jim-Crow

NEW YORK — Opening of all brances of the U. S. Army to the Negro with full right of promotion to the rank of officers was urged this week by the Aemrican Youth Congress in a seven point program to protect the rights of conscripts.

Savannah

Simultaneously, the Congress announced full backing of Congressman Vito Marcantonio's House Resolution calling for repeal of the draft law.

OCT 13 1940

While working for the scrapping of the measure, the Youth group declared that it will exercise sharp vigilance to see that the health and welfare of the conscripts are safeguarded and will oppose the traditional discriminatory practices of the army against Negroes.

Savannah Ga.,

"We will not permit race prejudice, religious intolerance or class hatred to divide us from other young people; we will work for the unity of our generation against all enemies," the statement emphasized.

In addition to proper facilities for full protection of the health and well being of the conscripts, the Congress demanded abolition of Jim Crow regiments, companies or units, and the practice of using Negro soldiers as labor battalions.

"We demand the ranks of officers be opened to enlisted men and conscripts, and full right to promotion and to serve as officers for Negro soldiers," the Congress insisted.

Ala. Puppet Show Stages A Campaign For Lynch Bill And Against Poll Tax

Chicago Defender

Group shows members of the American Youth Congress who have turned their talents to puppets. Below at right is the automobile, 1931 vintage, used by the Caravan Puppets to transport themselves and their stage. At their left is one of the puppets in action.

SEP 14 1940

Something new in the entertainment world hit Alabama this summer as the Caravan Puppets, three young people with a stage tied on the roof of their 1931 Chevrolet played their way through the state in the interests of the abolition of the poll tax and the passage of the anti-lynch bill.

Using puppets of their own making, Warren Cuncy of Washington, D. C.; Arthur G. Price Jr., vice president of the League of Young Southerners from Nashville, Tenn., and Romona Lowe, young lady of dramatic ability from Jersey City, N. J., gave up their summer to bring a message of civil rights and peace to the folks in Alabama.

The Alabama puppeteers are one of a group of such teams jointly sponsored by the Rural commission of the American Youth Congress and, in the South, by the Southern Negro Youth Congress.

Stopping at a mining camp, an Elks lodge, a church or a farm picnic, the young people would take down their stage and present their skits on the poll tax or against the conscription bill through the amusing characters such as "Mrs. Snootypuss" and her pig, which they fashioned out of paper mache.

They urged their audiences to work for the abolition of the poll tax, for better educational facilities for Negroes, and asked them to send delegates to the Emergency Peace Mobilization which was held in Chicago over Labor Day week end.

Combining entertainment with education the young folks received an enthusiastic reception in all the rural areas of Alabama where they payed mainly to Negro audiences.

Often after they had presented their skits they would engage in discussions with members of the audience about some of the questions that had been raised by the amusing figures in the puppet shows.

Chicago Defender

The puppeteers managed to eke out some of their gas and food expenses through contributions from their audiences (the shows were free) and often the farmers made their contributions in meals for the hungry puppeteers.

Civil Right Training Dis

Defender

By FANNY BUFORD

COLLEGE CAMP, Wis.—Keeping America out of war, jobs for the four million unemployed young Americans, the President's plan for compulsory military and industrial training and violation of civil rights were the major issues before the five hundred delegates to the Sixth American Youth Congress that convened July 3-7 for a four-day meeting here.

Representatives of church, student, labor, farm, and social organizations debated these issues and outlined Youth Congress campaigns for the next year.

Jack McMichael, chairman of the American Youth Congress had the following to say on peace:

"The prime question for us today is how to defend the peace, the liberty and the security of our nation, our people, our democratic way of life—against their enemies within and their enemies without. Through the American Youth Congress we have always had two major aims: To work actively for the achievement and organization of world brotherhood, and by working for the solution of youth's problems to raise the cultural and economic standard of living in our country.

"War creeps upon us at a time when we have in this country tremendous problems to be solved. We know today that the migratory workers of Oklahoma and California, the thousands of slum dwellers in every one of our great cities, the half-chained Negroes of our South, the racial minorities suffering discrimination in every section of our nation, the 8,000,000 disfranchised voters in Southern states and the District of Columbia, the more than 11,000,000 unemployed of which more than four and a half million are youth.

risory council, it was announced by oseph Cadden, executive secreary.

The move, seen as a swipe at Gene unney, who initiated the forming f a new youth group because he aid the American Youth Congress vas Communist-dominated was announced at the closing of the organization's convention here. The convention wound up Sunday.

In announcing Joe Louis' appointment, Cadden said: "Young Amerca admires an undefeated champion who refuses to retire on his laurels."

Among the many outstanding ecommendations of the American outh Conference was the very orthy one:

"Improvement in college and chool curricula to include: demoratic student participation in curculum revision; no militarization; nclusion of the role of minorities n our national history; vocation uidance and training; adequate ealth and marriage education; eduation on labor and social probems; interfaith relations; increased acilities for specialization and individualzation."

The absolute democratic policy of he American Youth Congress has, strangely enough, brought its greatest amount of criticism—last year from the Dies committee and this year from Gene Tunney, ex-heavyweight champion and his "Pro-American" group who were refused delegate powers to Congress because they objected to the representation of certain organizations within the Congress. Part of the AYC constitution reads:

"That: This Congress be open, in all its activities and its gatherings, to all persons, regardless of race, creed, religion, or political label, who are willing to abide by the principles of democratic procedure."

Close to a hundred Negro youths were delegates to the congress.

champion Gene Tunney, had tried unsuccessfully to disrupt the young people's organization assembled here for its fifth national parley.

Vetoes Tunny's Actions

Negro delegates to the Congress were particularly incensed at Tunney's actions. Many of them recalled that following Tunney's winning of the heavyweight crown from Jack Dempsey, the ex-marine publicly drew the color line and announced that he would not fight Harry Wills, contender for the championship at that time.

Meeting under the slogan of peace, civil liberties, jobs, education, health and housing, the Youth Congress boldly tackled the problems of Negro youth and emphasized its resolve to "beat back the attacks against Negroes in the South."

In a report on civil liberties, Edward Srong, executive secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, declared that violence against Negroes in the South had increased with the "wave of militarism" inspired by the administration. He cited the case of Elbert Williams who was lynched in Tennessee because he dared speak on the right of all citizens to vote and assailed the poll tax law.

Must Protect Civil Rights

"The heritage of the United States is its protection of minority groups," Strong declared. "Only through firm defense of our civil rights can we preserve this heritage."

Efforts of the Tunney group to disrupt the parley were unavailing as the several hundred Negro and white young people, representing over 5,000,000 of the nation's youth seriously tackled the problems confronting them.

The Congress lashed out at the pending universal conscription bill, and called for jobs at constructive tasks as one way toward solving the country's unemployment problem.

"The frightened and hysterical Congress may vote to starve American citizens, deny them work relief, initiate a campaign of starvation, of subtle civil war, to undermine the Bill of Rights for which our forefathers died. But we in the American Youth Congress pledge to continue the noble traditions of tolerance and freedom fought for and initiated by our forefathers," the Congress declared.

Youth Congress Invites Louis on Advisory Body

LAKE GENEVA, Wis. (CNA) — Joe Louis, heavyweight boxing champion, was asked, this week, to become a member of the adult advisory committee of the American Youth Congress because "Young America admires an undefeated champion who refuses to retire on his laurels."

The invitation was sent to the champion after the millionaire ex-

Youth ngress Seeks Louis' Aid

Defender

LAKE GENEVA, Wis.—(ANP)—oe Louis, heavyweight champion of he world, last week was invited by the American Youth Congress to

American Youth Congress

By WILLIAM PICKENS

Journal & Guide. Norfolk, Va.

Freedom, Security and Self-Expression Wanted By Youth Everywhere

AT LAKE GENEVA, in Wisconsin, the young people of the United States have been standing up on their hind legs and talking some more,—expressing sometimes their real sober sentiments, and sometimes just shooting off hot-air, smart-alecky fashion. I like to see them do it, for it is proof that, until this minute at least, America is still free America, where people can talk as they please, even when they please to talk non-sense, or to hint treason.

But I have no idea that these young people will want to ruin their country in any case, — any more than those British boys who a few years ago "swore not to fight in any English wars, not even if England were attacked, up the Thames and on their Oxford campus. Many of those boys have died since in defense of their country, and are still fighting for it.

DR. PICKENS

But these young people want what all humans have always wanted: Freedom, Security, Self-expression. They must know, however, that at this moment they have more of that than they would have in any other country: they could never speak in Germany or in Italy, as they speak in the United States; they could never disagree with Hitler or Mussolini, as they disagree with Roosevelt they could not "sass" the government in those countries.

And even in Russia to which some of these American young people seem to be so idealistically attached, they could not for a moment disagree with Stalin, and live on to disagree again. Such liberty for these young people exists right now ONLY IN THE UNITED STATES. If they love such liberty they will have to fight to keep and protect the United States, if a fight is made on the United States.

And it does not matter who starts it. If there is a fight and the United States' independence and self-hood is in jeopardy, the Americans will have to defend the United States, in order to defend the admirable liberty which these young people are taking.

Of course, they may fail, even at that: if the United States goes to war, certainly some of that liberty will be lost, at least for a time,—at the very least during the progress of the war. But if you see any way to prevent that curtailment. I do not. The point however, remains: THE ONLY CHANCE WE AMERICANS HAVE FOR SUCH LIBERTY AND FREEDOM AND HAPPINESS IS IN AMERICA, and in an America that can defend itself against Germany, Italy or Russia, or Japan, and against the whole lot of them. That may be a slim chance, but slim or not, it still is the ONLY chance.

Such liberty as these young people take, is worth fighting and dying for, even in the EFFORT to keep it, even if the effort proves to be a failure. It would be the lowest idiocy to say: We have the liberty to talk and disagree and sass and strike back in our country, and we are going to use that liberty to destroy that liberty; because we can do almost as we please, we are going to destroy or to allow others to destroy the country, the only country, which gives us that liberty.

Caravan Puppets Tour Alabama

CHICAGO — Something new in the entertainment world has hit Alabama this summer as the Caravan Puppets, three Negro young people with a stage tied on the roof of their 1931 Chevrolet are playing their way thru the State in the interests of the abolition of the poll tax and the passage of the Anti-Lynch Bill.

Using puppets of their own making and scripts they have written themselves, Warren Coney of Washington, D. C., Alvar J. Price, Jr. vice president of the League of Young Southerners from Nashville Tenn., and Romona Lowe, a young lady of dramatic ability from Jersey City, N. J., have given up their summer to bring a message of civil rights and peace to the folks in Alabama.

The Alabama puppeteers are one of a group of such teams jointly sponsored by the rural commission of the American Youth Congress and, in the South, by the Southern Negro Youth Congress.

Stopping at a lumbering camp, an Elk Lodge, a church or a farmers picnic, the young people take down their stage and present their skit on the poll tax or against the conscription bill through the amusing characters such as Mrs. Snootypuss and her Pig which they have fashioned out of paper mache. They urge their audience to work for the abolition of the poll tax. for better educational facilities for Negroes, and ask them to send delegates to the Emergency Peace Mobilization which will be held in Chicago over Labor Day week end. At the Chicago Mobilization the problem of civil rights, living standards and peace will be discussed by more than 15,000 delegates from Negro farm, trade union, church, and youth organizations.

Combining entertainment with education the young folks are receiving an enthusiastic reception in all the rural areas of Alabama where they are playing mainly to Negro audiences. Often after they have presented their skits they engage in discussions with members of the audience about some of the questions that have been raised by the amusing figures in the puppet show.

The puppeteers manage to eke out some of their [illegible] and food expenses through contributions from their audiences (the shows are free) and often the farmers make their contributions in meals for the hungry puppeteers.

Again The American Youth Congress

By WILLIAM PICKENS
(For Associated Negro Press)

At Lake Geneva, in Wisconsin, the young people of the United States have been standing up on their hind legs and talking some more, expressing sometimes their real sober sentiments, and sometimes just shooting off hot air, smart-alecky fashion. I like to see them do it, for it is proof that until this minute at least, America is still free America, where people can talk as they please, even when they please to talk nonsense, or to hint treason.

But I can have no idea that these young people will want to ruin their country in any case, any more than those British boys who a few years ago "swore not to fight in any English wars, not even if England were attacked, up the Thames and on their Oxford campus. Many of those boys have died since in defense of their country, and are still fighting for it.

But these young people want what all humans have always wanted, and will always want: Freedom, Security, Self-Expression. They must know, however, that at this moment they have more of that than they would have in any other country: they could never speak in Germany or in Italy as they speak in the United States; they could never disagree with Hitler or Mussolini, as they disagree with Roosevelt; they could not "sass" the government in those countries. Al even in Russia, to which some of these American young people seem be so idealistically attached, they could not for a moment disagree with Stalin, and live on to disagree again. Such liberty for these young people exists right now only in the United States. If they love such liberty they will have to fight to keep and protect the United States if a fight is made on the United States. And it does not matter a damn who starts it. If there is a fight the United States' independence and self-hood is in jeopardy the Americans will have to defend the United States in order to defend the admirable liberty which these young people are taking.

Of course, they may fail, even at that. If the United States goes to war, certain some of that liberty will be lost, at least for a time, at the very least during the progress of the war. But if you see any way to prevent that curtailment, I do not. The point, however, remains: The only chance we Americans have for such liberty and freedom and happiness in America, and in an America that can defend itself against Germany, Italy or Russia, or Japan ,and against the whole lot of them. That may be a slim chance, but slim or not, it still is the only chance. Such liberty as these young people take, is worth fighting and dying for, even in the effort to keep it, even if the effort proves to be a fallure. It would be the lowest idiocy to say: We have the liberty to talk and disagree and sass and strike back in our country, and we are going to use that liberty to destroy that liberty; because we can do almost as we please, we are going to destroy or to allow others to destroy the country, the only country which gives us that liberty.

And I notice that these young people are guilty of a great error in reasoning, just like some of our older people. They think they can "compromise" on war; that they can say: Oh, yes, we'll help to defend America by fighting in America, or even in the western half of the world, but we won't go beyond that to fight. Poor young things! If a war is started, we'll all fight wherever the fighting is to be done, from day to day: in California, in Massachusetts, in Canada and in Mexico, in South America or in Europe or in Asia—or on the back side of the moon—wherever the fighting goes on with the necessity. of even trying to win that war. There is no such thing as starting a war without the hope of winning it, and there is no sense in setting limits to a war and to the fighting areas. That sort of stuffy stuff makes good talk while we are not at war. But if we go to war, nobody is going to ask each individual soldier where he wants to fight; they will take him where the fighting is to be done, put the right fighting irons into his hands, and let him use his brilliant judgment for the rest of it.

There are only two choices, in case of war, for the individual; either he can refuse to go and take the consequences; or he can go, and take the consequences. If he refuses, he wil leither be shot or confined—unless he can start and win a private war of his own. If he goes he will obey the orders, unless he again starts and wins a private war of his own. In any and all cases it boils down to war for him, if there is a war.

None of that prevents us from doing all we can to avoid the necessity of war, of any war. But smart-alecky talk about treason, and nonsense about war plus individual choices and liberties, at one and the same time, all that is idiocy. I do not believe American youth can ever be guilty of such a crime against its country and itself.

Youth Congress Raps Aid to Finland, Hits Race Prejudice

WASHINGTON.

By MABEL ALSTON

Aid to Finland was denounced as a "Wall Street project" for bringing the United States closer to war, the Communist party was given the cold shoulder for working not in the interest of the laboring class but for the ruling bureaucracy in the Soviet Union, race discrimination was scored and Dies and Garner were hissed and booed by the 5,000 members of the American Youth Congress during its hectic three-day meeting, here.

The President himself also came in for a few boos, as did the First Lady, but both were highly praised by the majority of the members of the congress. The body also roundly scored race prejudice and discrimination in the nation's capital.

The 5,000 delegates, from all sections of the country, representing the youth of their communities, colored and white, packed the Labor Department Auditorium, Sunday, to discuss civil liberties and citizenship at the afternoon session of the national convention of the congress.

Harriet I. Pickens of the YWCA National Business and Professional Council, served as chairman. She controlled the meeting with superior effectiveness and ease.

Surprised at Prejudice

Louis Byrd, representative of the Harlem Youth Council, voiced the surprise of all the Northern delegates at the discrimination in restaurants and theatres here. During the convention, Washington had been very uncivil to the delegates, Mr. Byrd stated.

Much applause was given to Miss Otero Tymons, representative of the Washington Youth Council, who pointed out the inability of many citizens of Washington to patronize public commerical establishments; discrimination in the Federal Government itself, and how various departments of our "democratic" government maintain jim crow cafeterias in the Government buildings here in Washington.

Must Eat Behind Wall

In the Commerce Department, for example, a little eating room, conveniently removed from the main dining hall, is maintained for colored employees.

Although both races work side by side, and there are no signs, if a new employee gets in the "white line" he is politely told that his dining room is "over there behind the main dining hall."

Our national Government excuses itself from any part in the discrimination by pointing out that all concessions are leased to a "welfare organization," although some colored employees of this organization receive their checks from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Job Bias Matter of Concern

Miss Tymons stated that job discrimination in our national Government is a matter of concern not primarily to the members of our race in Washington but to every colored citizen in the United States and its possessions.

What is the situation in the Federal Government? There is no record of the percentage of colored employed as professional workers, clerks, or messengers because the U.S. Civil Services Commission disclaims any such breakdown by race.

Individual departments have, however, made such data available. In the Commerce Department over seventy-two per cent of the 300 colored employees are messengers or other service employees. Only two per cent have professional positions.

Mrs. Roosevelt Sits on Floor

Although I was not surprised at the statement of racial prejudice existing in the capital of our "democratic nation," I was a bit electrified when the First Lady of the land sat on the floor right in front of me and seemed to thoroughly enjoy it.

She is really one in a million! There she sat for fully twenty minutes before a seat was offered her by Winard J. Normand, a colored delegate from Oklahoma City, Okla.

Miss Hilda Orr, president of the Baltimore Youth Federation, asked the help of the congress in eliminating race discrimination in Baltimore department stores, street car transportation, American Federation of Labor Unions, and job opportunities.

She also expressed a desire that the Youth Congress work for the enactment of a Federal anti-lynching bill, and paid tribute to the late Frederick Douglass.

Philly Delegate Heard

Miss Annabelle Mays, representing the Philadelphia domestic workers' organization, told the assembly of the pressing necessity for organizing domestic workers and for their inclusion in Social Security legislation.

Their low wages and long hours make them more in need of favorable wage and hour and social security legislations than any other group, she declared.

The Youth Congress went on record for tolerant consideration of ideas from all nations and for "no half - way mark for civil liberties in a democrary."

Mrs. Roosevelt And Youth Congr

To the Editor of The Post—Sir: In The Post of February 7 an editorial reprimands Mrs. Roosevelt for her belief that "the A. Y. C. is not injured by inclusion of the Young Communist League as a constituent body," adding that she "would do well to ponder the forthright decision of the Civil Liberties Union," which has decided to exclude Communists from either office or committee membership. But reading on the same page, The Post Impressionist's fine tribute to Mrs. Roosevelt, her real admirers feel emboldened to raise a few points.

Mrs. Roosevelt, as your columnist has pointed out, is a very unusual woman: intelligent, kindly, but she is more. She is a woman with a well-defined social philosophy of life. She is a thinking person, knowing a great deal about the deep-rooted social sentiments that determine human behavior and how these sentiments are developed by the conditioning to which man is subjected by the institutions and traditions of his culture.

Mrs. Roosevelt looks intelligently at human behavior as a sociologist does, with the difference that she puts these valuable findings into instant and remedial operation.

Mrs. Roosevelt is also a mother of young people, but from the time when she was mother of babies, she undoubtedly knew the wisdom of giving a toddler something to take his fancy and fill his eye, if she wished to take from him a dangerous weapon. And didn't the young of a generation ago love to toy with socialism and call themselves "Socialists?" And nobody got overexcited about that.

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote in a letter that he was now too old to be a Socialist; that phase belonged to youth. And do our young of today have more than they did a generation ago They really have less, both in their present status and prospect. Is it not part of a farseeing wisdom to give them something to fill their imagination, to stimulate thought, and give them something to do?

These thousands of unemployed young people have to be considered. They need a guide to show them how they can help preserve this democracy of ours. It is a gigantic instrument, but a delicate one, which has been shown to function quickly and even efficiently in a great crisis.

This was demonstrated in the depth of the depression when those who might have wished to jettison the entire machinery were made happy in the universality of suffering to put their shoulder to other shoulders and pull. We came through this crisis by applied intelligence plus faith and patience.

We are not out of the woods yet. We have passed that danger post, but there are others. We still have unemployment and we still have unemployed youth. What those young people need is an active hand in helping to preserve our democracy. Should they be spanked and told what they cannot do, instead of being encouraged and directed to do what they can?

They need a constructive program and they need direction. One of the fatal deficiencies of the present day is the fact that there is nothing constructive for us to do. We are on the defensive. We defend our democracy when it is attacked, but there is no day-in, day-out program whereby we can work for it.

Do not Mrs. Roosevelt's consistent and remedial activities speak for themselves? Must we isolate just one and put it under the microscope?

Is it impossible for a truly great person, simple, forthright and patriotic, to survive amongst us?

VICTORIA L. MUNRO.

Fairfax, Va., Feb. 7.

MR. ROOSEVELT TO OUR YOUNG

President Roosevelt startled official Washington as well as the delegates to the National Youth Congress when he stepped right in and spoke blunt words about Russia and took note of the charges that the Youth Congress is dominated by American communists.

The usual diplomatic phrasing was missing from the chief executive's speech and the manner of delivery was precise and emphatic. It was forthright. It appeared that the trend of the speech at one time that Stalin himself would be named and charged with imperialistic crime. That specific charge did not materialize, but Mr. Roosevelt's words left no doubt as to his attitude towards the Russian aggression against Finland. He said: "That American sympathy is 98 per cent with the Finns in their effort to stave off invasion of their own soil is now axiomatic. That America wants to help them by lending or giving them money to save their own lives is also axiomatic by now. That the Soviet Union would, because of this, declare war on the United States is about the most absurd thought I have ever heard advanced in the 58 years of my life."

The Youth Congress has been a center of controversy since the Dies committee charged that the congress was a communist-front organization. That charge has not been supported, but it is known that many communists are affiliated with the congress. President Roosevelt carefully pointed out that it was the right of any American to call himself a communist and to peacefully and openly advocate certain ideals of theoretical communism. He was even more careful to point out that, as Americans, it is not only a right but a sacred duty to confine such advocacy of changes in law to the methods prescribed by the constitution of this nation, and that no one has an American right, by act or deed, to subvert the government and constitution of this nation.

Mr. Roosevelt made a statement about the evolution of his attitude toward Russia's system of government upon which his enemies will undoubtedly jump with both feet. He pointed out that the early leaders of the Soviet Union were bringing education and better health and better opportunity to the millions who had been kept in ignorance and serfdom by the imperial regime, and by so doing drew from him admiration and sympathy. Mr. Roosevelt admitted that at one time he held to the hope that Russia would work its way out and achieve a popular government, a peace-loving government with no desire to interfere with the integrity of its neighbors. "That hope is today either shattered or put away in storage against a better day," he said.

In Mr. Roosevelt's own words communist "is an unpopular term these days." He admitted sympathy with the efforts of early Russian communist leaders in their attempt to better their country. There is some measure of political danger in Mr. Roosevelt's measured statement of that early sympathy, danger because of the blathering noise made by certain professional patriots. However, thoughtful Americans will appreciate Mr. Roosevelt's forthright statements stripped of the political pussyfooting common to lesser statesmen.

Mr. Roosevelt concluded his address with some sound advice to youth: "Keep your ideals high, keep both feet on the ground and keep everlastingly at it."

If youth is worth its salt, it will try to take Mr. Roosevelt's advice and not be swayed by the selfish pressure groups which incessantly demand that youth forego thinking and turn to blind conservatism. As he said, none of America's basic problems has been solved, but the solution to those problems is perceptibly evolving. No single law or panacea will accomplish the feat, only the steady impact of ideas born to thoughtful men will wear away those things which block America's path to economic and spiritual security for all.

Youth Congress Asks Joe Louis To Be Adviser

LAKE GENEVA, Wis.—(ANP)—Joe Louis, heavyweight champion of the world, last week was invited by the American Youth Congress to join the organization's adult advisory council, it was announced by Joseph Cadden, executive secretary.

The move, seen as a salve at Gene Tunney, who initiated the forming of a new youth group because he said the American Youth Congress was Communist dominated was announced at the closing of the organization's convention here. The convention wound up Sunday.

In announcing Joe Louis' appointment, Cadden said: "Young America admires an undefeated champion who refuses to retire on his laurels."

AMERICAN YOUTH GROUPS SCRUTINIZED

New York Times — New York, Nov.

Many Organizations In Country Have Diverse Aims

11-14-40

By FRANK S. ADAMS

The sixth annual American Youth Congress held at College Camp, Wis., a week ago, focused attention anew on the youth of this country and on the problems they face. Is there a youth movement in this country comparable to those in some foreign lands? Is the A. Y. C. truly representative of the young people of the nation? What sections of the organized youth groups are aloof?

Any effort to answer such questions immediately meets with serious difficulties. It is true that there is no organized, national youth movement in this country similar to the movements in Germany and Italy, where the young men and women are regimented under the strict rule of the dominant parties. There are, however, very large numbers of youth organizations in this country with an almost endless variety of aims and purposes. A Directory of Youth Organizations issued last Spring by the National Youth Administration lists 281 national and local youth groups, with a total claimed membership of about 32,000,000. In this total there must be, of course, a large amount of duplication.

Divergent Purposes

Some of those familiar with the situation contend that American youth organizations are so divergent in nature and in aims that it is impossible to unite them behind any aggressive program that seeks to deal with political, social and economic questions. They add that some youth groups are debarred by their charters or constitutions from such activities.

Supporters of the Youth Congress reply that it has already succeeded in exercising a unifying influence on the youth movement, and that its influence in this respect is steadily growing. They point to the number and the virulence of the attacks made on it as the best proof of the effectiveness of the congress. They often refer to the congress as the "spearhead" or the "van" of the country's youth "movement."

The whole question is complicated by the fact that there is no general agreement as to what constitutes youth. The N. Y. A. endeavored to confine its compilation to organizations whose members ranged in age from 12 to 30 years, although in a few cases it included groups where the upper age limit ran as high as 35 or even 40. A more common age grouping for youth, frequently used by some government sources, is from 16 to 24. It is estimated that about one-sixth of the population, or between 21,000,000 and 22,000,000 persons, fall in this age group.

A. Y. C. Age Standard

The American Youth Congress, made up as it is of member organizations and not of individuals, does not attempt to set very precise age standards. It merely requires that member organizations must have memberships at least 60 per cent of which are under the age of 30. This provision enables many organizations which are not ordinarily thought of as primarily youth organizations, for instance such trade unions as the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, to qualify for membership.

There is a major division in the youth movement between the organizations directly controlled and run by young people themselves and the so-called youth-serving agencies which, though existing for the benefit of young people, have their policies determined by governing bodies of adults. Many of the best-known youth organizations, including "character-building" groups like the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts, are in the latter category.

Attacked by some of its more vehement foes, notably Gene Tunney, as an assemblage of "paper" organizations, the sixth Youth Congress claimed, through the report of its credentials committee, to consist of 533 delegates, representing 5,159,495 young persons, and ninety-five observers, representing 2,190,966 others. It held that thirty-four national organizations were represented by national delegates; that twenty-four other national organizations were represented by local delegates, and that sixty-seven local councils and 116 local and State affiliated bodies were also represented.

Outside the Congress

Many well-known youth groups do not participate in the Youth Congress. Thus the 4-H Clubs and such governmental agencies as the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Youth Administration are not in its ranks. The Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts do not participate, in accordance with their long-held policies of not affiliating with other organizations. The Catholic Youth Organizations not only have refused to participate but their spokesmen have been strongly critical. The Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A. do not participate as national organizations in the congress, although some of their member groups take part.

The American Youth Commission, a non-partisan group of leading citizens under the chairmanship of Owen D. Young, discussed the problem of youth organizations not long ago. It argued that while their activities "may be irritating to many adults, they should not be suppressed on that account" and that they "can have major values" in contributing to the educational processes of youth.

A Warning Given

Expressing its conviction that, notwithstanding present difficulties, youth-led organizations are here to stay, the group warned that "the violent and hysterical persecution of young intellectual radicals is in itself a childish procedure." On the other hand, it urged upon youth groups "special care to avoid outraging the adult community through conspicuous bad manners and through gross failure to give a hearing to adult points of view."

It concluded that "rejection of the curative though irritating processes of public discussion is un-American and might be suicidal."

Youth Seen Turning Toward Labor, Away From Roosevelt Administration

AYC DELEGATES DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY LEWIS-ROOSEVELT CLASH

By Adam Lapin
(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 23.—The President used a bludgeon. Mrs. Roosevelt tried tact and persuasion. Neither succeeded in arresting the trend of the American youth away from the administration.

As more than 5,000 Youth Congress Pilgrims were traveling back from the capital to their homes in every corner of the nation this seemed to be the outstanding feature of the colorful, and dramatic Citizenship Institute and the subsequent meeting of the National Assembly of the Youth Congress.

No final estimate is possible as yet of a gathering which will leave its mark on the political scene during the months to come. It is plain enough, however, that in its quest for jobs, peace and civil liberties the youth are moving into irresistible conflict with the President and his policies.

At the same time, they are moving toward closer cooperation with labor, farmers and other progressive political forces. Political observers here did not miss the fact that the delegates gave their greatest ovation to John L. Lewis, and that one of the major steps taken by the National Assembly was to accept the offer of the CIO leader for collaboration on legislative matters with Labor's Non-Partisan League.

For the thousands of delegates the Citizenship Institute was exactly what its name implies—a school in national politics and the tasks of young people as citizens.

But the Institute was no ordinary class room in which the students listen meekly to the lectures of their elders. It was a great arena in which political forces and leaders clashed. And the delegates were actual participants helping to shape the future.

During the past few years the Youth Congress had been one of the large progressive organizations which formed the loose popular coalition around the administration. While the AYC had always asked for more aid for youth than the President gave, it supported the inadequate social legislation which the New Deal did offer. Mrs Roosevelt was prominently known as one of those who supported the aims of the Youth Congress.

More recently many young people had begun to turn against the administration as they saw the cuts in aid for youth, the expansion of armaments and the trend toward participation of the United States in the war in Europe.

It is equally true, however, that many members did not yet fully understand the role of the Roosevelt administration in the new world situation. They knew what they wanted—but they did not realize how completely their desires and aspiration clashed with the policies of the President.

Delegates to the Institute know now if they did not know before—and they will take the word back to millions of young people in their communities.

DEMANDED AN ANSWER

When the delegates marched single file into the White House grounds on Saturday, they came to hear what reply the President would make to their insistent demands.

"Education, vocational training, employment at a living wage—for all, preservation of the civil liberties proclaimed in the Bill of Rights—peace—these are our simple aims," Jack McMichael, chairman of the Youth Congress, said as he introduced the President.

And the President scolded the delegates as they stood patiently in the pouring rain on the wet, soggy White House grounds because they made these simple, modest demands.

The President rebuked them for asking for jobs because young people were unemployed 20 or 30 years ago as well as today.

He commanded them not to pass any more resolutions such as the one adopted almost unanimously by the New York Council of the Youth Congress against war loans to the Mannerheim government of Finland.

The President chose the occasion to make an attack on the Soviet Union which aroused the worse fears of the delegates that the administration is moving rapidly to war.

What hurt many of the delegates most was that the President had challenged their democratic right to express themselves on legislative and political issues which closely concern them.

He actually scolded them for passing resolutions at all—not only on Finland but also on other matters. He said that the complicated affairs of national and international policy are best left to experts of more mature years.

In short, the delegates were given no assurances that their cardinal demands would even be considered. On the contrary, the President indicated clearly that the administration was moving in the opposite direction.

Some commentators have seen fit to make much of the fact that a handful of delegates hissed the President. What was really surprising under the circumstances was the discipline and self-restraint of these young people as they stood patiently and silently on the White House lawn and were scolded and insulted.

When Mrs. Roosevelt answered questions at the closing session of the Institute, she was more tactful. She went out of her way to praise the leaders of the Youth Congress. She did not scold. The administration is not asking for a break with the AYC. But she said exactly the same things as the President.

On the question of peace she went even further than the President. When the delegates marched into the White House they shouted: "The Yanks are not coming." Mrs. Roosevelt told them that they might be coming very shortly.

"Today you may be sure you would never approve a war under any circumstances," she declared. "Six months from now the situation might be so changed you would see things entirely differently. Nobody knows what he may have to face in the future or how he will act under different circumstances."

LEWIS VOICED YOUTH'S DEMANDS

At every point the speech of John L. Lewis conflicted with the speeches of the President and Mrs. Roosevelt.

The outstanding leader of American labor told the delegates that it was the democratic right of the Youth Congress to keep right on passing resolutions "about the Finnish question, or the Russian question, or the European question, the peace question or any other question."

If the President and Mrs. Roosevelt gave youth no assurances against involvement in war, Lewis urged them to keep on fighting for peace and to "hold to strict accountability any politician or any statesman who undertakes to involve this country in a war in Europe or a war in the Pacific."

Both the President and Mrs. Roosevelt had been vague about civil liberties. But Lewis was specific. He challenged the "spanking new" Supreme Court to do something about the iniquitous poll taxes which deprive the Negro and poor white people of the South of the right to vote.

On the question of jobs, Lewis offered the clear-cut specific legislative program of the CIO with its demand for extension of social legislation and for an adequate WPA and NYA program.

And finally the leader of the CIO told the Youth Congress that "while the Republican Party says it doesn't want to associate with you, the Democratic Party through its titular spokesman says they doubt you know what you are talking." Labor would be glad to cooperate with the youth on a common program.

ISSUES CLEAR CUT

Thus the delegates had presented to them two clear-cut alternatives. They could either follow the administration toward war and insecurity or they ally themselves with labor and the CIO.

Even prior to the dramatic clash of programs between the President and Lewis, it was clear which way the delegates were heading.

When Attorney General Robert Jackson spoke at the opening on Friday night, he was introduced by Edward Strong, chairman of the Southern Negro Youth Congress. Strong reminded the Attorney General pointedly of the midnight raids by the F. B. I. on the homes of 18 persons charged with aiding Americans to defend democracy in Spain.

Despite the furor in the press and the demands of various groups and politicians for a "red purge," Youth Congress leaders stood firm and declared that the Young Communists had their place in the youth movement. They warned that a move to persecute Communists was the first step in a more general suppression of civil liberties.

At the Youth Congress Assembly the attitude of the delegates as manifested by speeches and applause was crystalized into a coherent program of action.

AVOIDS "WAR TRAP"

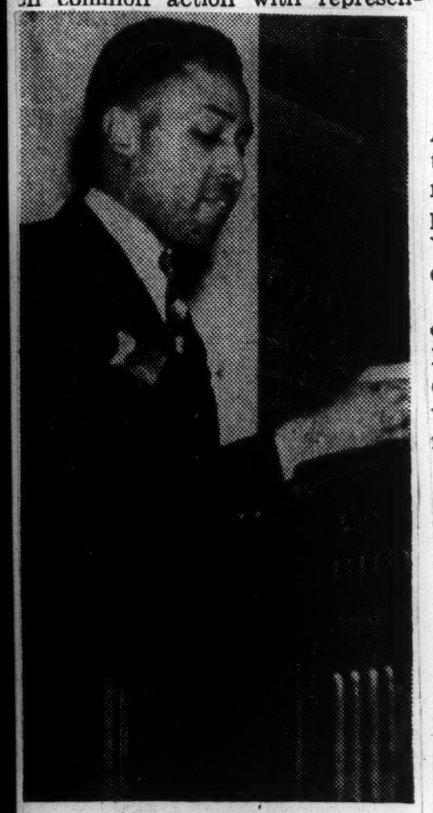
The Assembly made it plain that "Young America will not be trapped into war" and called on the youth of the world to unite to stop "the slaughter of our generation."

It set aside April 6 as a day for National demonstrations to keep America out of the war and ap-

proved plans for a joint anti-war congress with the young people of Latin America. It launched a nation-wide campaign for passage of the American Youth Act, which will give jobs and opportunities to young people.

The Youth Congress showed its devotion to civil liberties by refusing to accept the proposal of a representative of the Young People's Socialist League for expulsion of the Communists. The setting up of local civil liberties committees was adopted as a method of keeping tabs on the Dies Committee, the Department of Justice and other forces which threaten the rights of the American people.

Finally, immediate negotiations on common action with represen-



EDWARD STRONG

tatives of CIO and Labor's Non-Partisan League were initiated and letters proposing similar negotiations were sent to leaders of the A. F. of L., the Railroad Brotherhoods and the Farmers Union.

So clearly had the delegates to the Citizenship Institute manifested their will that there was practically no opposition of this program by the 92 youth leaders present at the AYC Assembly.

Politicians in Washington may not like the Youth Congress but they cannot afford to ignore it. The delegates to the Citizenship Institute and to the AYC National Assembly were speaking not only for themselves but for millions of young Americans.

They reflected the new political winds which are beginning to sweep the nation—the growing distrust with both major political parties on the basic issues of peace and jobs and civil liberties and the movement toward independent political action on the part of the masses of the people.

'Legislature' Is Held Preceding Nat'l Parley

Youth Congress Delegates Oppose Militarization, Gov't 'Found Guilty'

Daily Worker 6/17/40 New York

WASHINGTON, June 16 — The American Youth Congress convention, scheduled to be held in Geneva, Wisconsin, on July 4th, was preceded here this week-end by Youth Legislature held by youth of the District of Columbia.

The session on Friday evening opened with "trial" on youth problems in which Mrs. Roosevelt and others participated. The President's wife acted as mistress of ceremonies.

Charles O'Dell, newly elected chairman of the Washington Youth Congress was chairman of the event.

Lee Pressman, chief counsel of the CIO took the part of prosecuting attorney, while John P. Davis, executive secretary of the National Negro Congress acted as judge during the trial in which a number of Washington youth presented their problems. Each told of harrowing experiences in trying to finds jobs and acquire an education.

One young Negro girl, 18 years of age, told of having to sleep on park benches after her mother had been denied relief.

The jury, composed of Washington labor and civic figures, returned with a verdict placing the guilt directly upon the government for the plight of youth in this country today.

The jury proposed a program which included the establishment of a free city college, for improving vocational training facilities, and the end of discrimination against Negro youth in the use of reactional center.

The following day's session of the Youth Legislature was devoted to discussions on the fight for peace, jobs and the defense of civil rights. Sharp opposition was made against American involvement in the war, and against conscription, militarization of the NYA and CCC.

Proposals were made to strengthen a campaign to secure the passage of the American Youth Act by the delegates.

Other actions taken were a condemnation of "fifth column" hysteria, opposition to deportation of Harry Bridges, West Coast longshoremen's leader, and that no person be denied employment because of religious or political beliefs, or place of birth.

JOHN P. DAVIES

American Youth Congress July 3-7

LAKE GENEVA, Wis. — The sixth American Youth Congress will convene July 3 at College Camp, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin and will continue through July 7. Delegates from over America are expected to attend.

There will be four commissions, each discussing one of the following topics, jobs, civil liberties, rural problems and educational opportunities for high school, college and out of school youth. Each commission will make its report to the entire Congress and it will be discussed and voted upon.

Youth Congress Surveyed

Communist Sentiment Considered Not Representative of Majority

June 16/40 New York

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

It is unfortunate that a large number of Americans have come to believe that sentiments predominant at the recent American Youth Congress are congruous with the state of mind of the average young American. This is not true, although it would be hard to disagree with some of their noble generalizations as set forth in final resolution form.

As a one-time member of the American Student Union and as a college man who has been interested in the "pink fringe," I have observed that many enthusiastic would-be Stalinists have acquired familiarity only with the lingo of the Moscow high command.

It is not impossible that this convention cavorting has displaced the old raccoon-coat rah-rah collegiate spirit of the Twenties. Nowadays the young man is putting away his fraternity hocus-pocus and turning to face the problems of his time. We have but to look at the foreign students' perennial interest in politics to see that an occasional brawl, bonfire—even of silk stockings—or mass meeting is neither unusual nor alarming but rather an indication that our younger minds are aware of and receptive to world affairs.

After all, world affairs do concern the young Communists as much as anybody else. Furthermore, these energetic and vociferous young Communists deserve a lot of credit for their success in handling the privileges of democracy. They pronounce themselves representatives of American youth and they receive from newspapers publicity appropriate to representatives of American youth.

The day American youth becomes, as a unit, so articulate that it can express a majority clear-cut opinion on such controversial issues as those which face it now—that day will dawn only when democracy has ceased to be and protest must mean revolution. Perhaps, for many of the young Communists, this day has already come. But, fortunately or otherwise, the young Communists are no majority, and majority still seems to be the general rule around here.

RICHARD G. AUGENBLICK.

Newark, N. J., July 7, 1940.

Not Typical Youth

At least in so far as its publicized activities, it seems plain that the American Youth Congress is utterly unrepresentative of the average American youth. For no one can believe, even the most pessimistic, that the average young American of today is so lacking in self-respect, in independence and initiative as to believe the federal government must support him.

According to the news stories, the outstanding activities of the American Youth Congress at, its recent Washington convention included an attempt to force Congress to appropriate half a billion dollars for a "youth relief" program; boos for the speech of the President of the United States because he condemned the vicious Stalin regime in Russia; ousting of delegates who offered a resolution condemning Russia's attack on Finland and applause for all manner of wild, left-wing spouters on bolshevistic communism.

It is fortunate that this Youth Congress is not typical of American youth. For, if it were, the outlook for this nation would be dire indeed, with a generation of "gimme" boys, handout beggars and psychological crybabies nearing adulthood.

But the average American youth is not like that. He is a clean, honest, independent and fearless sort of a fellow. He knows he faces a tough sort of world in which to make a living, but it takes a lot of hard knocks, over a long, long period, to send him down for the count. He is resilient, refusing to acknowledge when he is licked and, by that very bulldog tenacity, eventually solving his own economic problem for himself.

Therein, perhaps, lies the secret of the "youth problem" of today. True, it consists largely of lack of employment, yet it is not a mass problem, but an individual one. It will be solved, not through congressional appropriations or political pressures, but by each one getting out and facing the personal problem and, somehow, with patience, ingenuity and determination, finding that job for himself—or herself.

Washington Recovers From Shock Of The American Youth Congress Sessions

Mrs. Roosevelt Tells Delegates She Has Sympathy For Finland During 45-Minute Talk

Lambertson Makes Observations About Joe Stalin

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—Washington is just recovering from the shock it received last week, when the American Youth congress met here and completely turned the town upside down, precipitating more discussions than anything this hamlet has witnessed for a score of years.

While some of the leaders of the conference were voting in favor of district suffrage also **have sympathies for Fin**at an orderly session in the U. S. **land."**
Public Health Service auditorium, **The audience gave** respectful at-
sightseeing delegates disturbed **tention to the woman who had**
the house of representatives with **helped the congress in many**
hisses from the gallery for mem- **ways, had attended sessions be-**
bers on the floor and applause for **fore, but was telling the delegates**
others. **to their faces that they might be**
Taking things entirely in its **wrong on some of their own con-**
own hands, the American Youth **clusions.**
Congress which had been flayed **As she concluded, Mrs. Roose-**
and openly called Communistic in **velt was given generous cheers**
its concept, attacked many ques- **with many delegates standing.**
tions of interest to youth of the **She also attended other sessions**
day. **where the congress again severe-**
Chief concern was the passage **ly attacked the Dies committee.**
of a bill which is to insure the **However, it was in the house**
permanency of the National Youth **that the members of the youth**
Administration at a cost of $500,- **congress appeared at worst.**
000,000 yearly to the government. Representative Lambertson was
However, the highlight of the **on the floor.**
sessions was the meeting at which **"The English and French were**
Mrs. Roosevelt appeared and in a **derided,"** he said, **"but never Joe**
45-minute session, attempted to **Stalin."** Several youths made sig-
answer a batch of written ques- **nals of disapproval when another**
tions directed at her. **representative made critical re-**
One of the contentious points **marks concerning the C. I. O. Gal-**
was the action of this government **lery attendants constantly warned**
toward Finland. Opposed to sup- **them of their conduct and threat-**
port and aid for Finland, the con- **ened expulsion from the galleries**
gress was still smarting under a **for further violations.**
rebuke administered earlier by the **Disapproval of certain members**
president. **of the Republican party was the**
Mrs. Roosevelt said that "our **cause of these expressions on the**
sympathies as a free people **part of the members attending the**
should be with Finland." She de- **house session, due to the fact that**
clared that she agreed with the **John M. Hamilton had earlier de-**
congress in its sympathy for Chi- **clared there would be no message**
na and Spain but she said, "I **from the Republican National**

Committee to the group because of its Communistic leanings and tendencies and alleged connections.

Setting April 6 as a nation-wide demonstration day to protest against future involvement in war, it was decided at the closing session of the group to take an active part in developing a program for the betterment of youth in the nation as well.

While the assembly was in session, it also voted for taking steps toward a working agreement with the C. I. O. and to that end members of both groups will confer with the idea of working with organizations including union and farm groups who might be interested in joint action on legislative aims.

In connection with the peace demonstrations on the anniversary of the U. S. entering the World War, three "peace caravans" will make a tour touching all 48 states to hold meetings and to make speeches.

As one of the potential political factors in the future, much attention was paid the congress by various groups and at the close of one of the sessions, Harriet Pickens, daughter of William Pickens, presiding at the meeting, announced a "surprise gift" of $50 from Postmaster General James A. Farley.

Some writers take exception to the plans and policies of the congress, declaring they come to Washington with open palms, asking the United States congress to continue the NYA and make it a permanent set-up.

STRONG ATTACKS KLAN IN YOUTH CONGRESS TALK

AYC Institute in Stormy Sessions During Four Days

After a stormy four-day series of sessions here, the citizenship institute, sponsored by the American Youth Congress, drew to a close Monday. More than 700 Negro delegates were listed among the 4,000 youths registered.

The institute was called to study means of promoting better citizenship and to lobby against cuts in appropriations for youth-aid programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Youth Administration.

It also urged passage of the American Youth Act, sponsored by Senator James Murray (D.), of Montana, to provide 500 million dollars for jobs and vocational training for young folk.

Highlighting the conference which opened Friday, was an address by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Sunday night, at the Department of Labor auditorium.

Ejected from Meeting

Two of the anti-Communist bloc were carried out bodily, while the third, Archibald D. Roosevelt, stalked out in anger.

Edward E. Strong, chairman of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, assailed the Ku Klux Klan in his address Friday night, which was broadcast over the NBC preceding the speech made by Attorney General Robert H. Jackson.

Strong attacked the lethargy of the Department of Justice and other responsible officials in their failure to protect citizens against the klan. He scored the Dies Committee for investigating everything except the things right at its own back door. He asked realization of civil liberties for all American citizens.

Jackson answered Strong when it came his turn. Speaking extemporaneously, he said:

"You will be interested to know that the Department of Justice has had an attorney in South Carolina for over a week investigating and preparing charges against the Ku Klux Klan."

Klan Is Active

Strong had cited that the klan had become active in the South, mainly in South Carolina, recently in an effort to quelch the growing inclination of Negro citizens to vote. He pointed out that Negroes were beaten for trying to vote and certain whites were beaten and intimidated for taking a sympathetic attitude toward these colored citizens.

In her address Sunday night Mrs. Roosevelt touched upon the anti-lynching bill now before Con-

gress.

"I favor the passage of this bill," she said, "but I would not like to have it applied to any one section of the country: I would like to see it applied to the entire nation without singling any one section for criticism."

Not Sure of Passage

"The bill may be passed," she said. "Some time ago I was certain of its passage, but now I'm not so certain."

Taking the spotlight on Saturday, a 14-year-old colored girl, Katie Robinson, told of the hardships of the sharecroppers who had formed a union in Missouri.

Unembarrassed before the microphone, she recited in simple language, filled with emotion, some of the plights of the 'croppers and their need for help.

Youth Congress Holds Panel Discussions on Peace and Civil Rights

Delegates Warn "Red-Scare" Attacks Are Aimed at Unity of People; Show Little Concern in Reports About Tunney's Arrival

By Robert G. Epstein
(Special to the Daily Worker)

COLLEGE CAMP, Wis., July 5.—Peace, civil liberties, jobs, education, health and housing in the United States had the attention of the youth today when the 500 delegates to the American Youth Congress here broke up into small groups and panel discussions to prepare reports to be presented to the delegates and observers tomorrow.

Yesterday's panel group on civil liberties heard Edward Strong, executive secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, declare that "it is necessary for youth to understand the technique of reaction because in all countries where fascism has come it has been preceded by a red scare which has been used to divide the forces of the people. Reaction knows that destruction of civil liberties will enable it to institute fascism and carry the youth of this country into war."

Reporting on recent attacks, inspired by the wave of militarism against Negroes in the South Strong cited the case of a man drowned in Tennessee because he dared speak on the right of all citizens to vote and deplored the poll tax.

"The heritage of the United States in its protection of minority groups," Strong declared. "Only through firm defense of our civil liberties can we preserve this heritage."

REACTION'S WEDGEWAY

Strong made clear the role of greatly increased attacks against Communists when he declared that "reaction today is persecuting the Communists in order to split and frighten the American people and make it easier to lead them into war."

Following Strong, Howard Lee, of Arkansas, representing the Young Southerners League, took the floor to say "Strong has spoken for all the common people of the South, not for Negroes alone. The lack of democracy in the South holds back the entire country. It is therefore a national problem. We Southerners are taxed without representation. We must abolish the poll tax."

Delegates from all corners of the nation reported wholesale violations of civil liberties under the impetus of the war drive, and reiterated Youth's stand for peace and democracy.

Elliot Chapman, of the National Maritime Union, pointed out that "the unity of the people is the real target of the 'red' scare." A Los Angeles delegate declared that "war hysteria is destroying the nations level - headedness." The Miami Youth Council told of American Legion and Klan attempts to break up peace meetings and the lack of protection from the Constituted authorities as well as the civil liberties division of the FBI.

LESSON FROM ENGLAND

Warning the Congress of the effects of the war on the educational system, Anthony Scott, of the National Union of Students of Great Britain, declared that "the British government has repeatedly made it clear that their only concern was with the war and that the problem of Youth and education must be subordinated. The government has cut down educational grants, mobilized students and broken up the school system by forced evacuations."

However, a united movement has developed among students and young people to defend the interests of education, he said:

"Recently, the Student Congress, despite the official pressure against them, placed the responsibility for the war squarely on the shoulders of the friends of Hitler, and demanded the freedom of Youth to examine and solve the problems of Youth themselves."

He urged American Youth to draw the obvious lessons from the experiences of Youth in Europe.

Meanwhile, as the Congress geared itself for the discussions and resolutions on peace, it was rumored that Gene Tunney, 42-year old ex-boxing champion, had arrived in Williams Bay and was planning to stage a demonstration during the Congress' discussion on peace. But the delegates seemed unconcerned with the promised diversion and busied themselves with more pressing problems facing young America.

Bearing out the remark made by Jack McMichael, Chairman of the Youth Congress, that he had been to many conventions but never had he seen such sincerity and mature thoughts as here, was the calmness with which the delegates greeted the information that Murray Plavner's gang was composed of Ford goons, and that they were recognized by a Detroit Negro, who works for Ford and identified the bunch as "Service Men" employed by Ford and Bennett to break up union meetings.

On The Record

By Dorothy Thompson

Advice From A 'Dutch Aunt'

An unsolicited address to the American Youth Congress

YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN OF THE YOUTH CONGRESS: PERMIT ME to raise some questions regarding your organization which a careful study of the newspaper reports of your congress has failed to answer, in my mind. Believe me that I raise the questions in no querulous spirit.

AS I UNDERSTAND IT, your Congress is a sort of holding company. You are not a separate organization but are made up of representatives of numerous organizations—labor, religious, educational, fraternal, student, political, cultural and even recreational. Among these groups is the Young Communist League.

ST ADD THOMPSON OPP ED.. to merge these organizations into a holding company, but I would like to remind you that holding companies are always, and rightly, under fire. They have often been devices by which a very small minority group, investing very little capital, is able, by manipulation, to exercise entirely disproportionate control — particularly through the directors: I suggest to you that what is true of capitalist holding companies is also true of political holding companies!

Now, when you merge, as you have done, 62 different national organizations and 450 local, State and regional ones, varying all the way from the Epworth League to the Young Communists, it is very difficult to formulate a policy at all. For the mere fact of being of the same age does not mean that you are of the same mind.

You, therefore, run the risk of becoming only a pressure group, like the Townsend movement, bent on getting economic advantages for your age group by organized political pressure.

The old people over 60 are a pressure group already; now if you, aged, let us say between 16 and 30, do the same thing, what is to prevent the people like myself calling a national middle-aged congress and demanding that the Government do something for us between the ages of 30 and 60?

THE FALLACY in it is that the Government happens to be us—whether we belong to youth, middle age, or old age. The Government has nothing at all—not a cent—except what it takes from us. Its resources are only what we create for it. And, therefore, I should think, the first thing we ought to consider is what we can contribute to the whole rather than what we can get out of the pot. Because if all of us consider only the latter, by and by the Government will be like the old woman who lived in a shoe who had so many children to support she did not know what to do.

When governments get into that dilemma they act just as the old woman did—give their children some broth without any bread, whip them all soundly and send them to bed. They call this punishment dictatorship.

Mind you, this is not criticism—it is warning. Being young does not, in itself, constitute a claim on the rest of society, which was also young once. Whatever you, as youth, demand today, you will have to pay for, for another youth tomorrow.

NOW I SEE that you are yourselves aware that just being a certain age hardly constitutes a bond, so you have tried to make your unity more explicit in a creed. This creed, which I read in the Sunday New York Times, is a very fine creed. You pledge yourselves to the service of your country and of mankind.

Then you pledge yourselves to defend the free conscience and the free religious spirit. You promise to safeguard the national plant and resources, help forge new social tools, defend the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and oppose all undemocratic tendencies and all forms of dictatorship.

You say, "I will help make the United States a force for peace and pledge that my patriotism will contribute to the brotherhood of man." And, finally, you say, "I will not permit race prejudice, religious intolerance or class hatred to divide me from other young people."

Fine! I'll go the whole way with you! And now I want to ask a very simple question: How come that you take in Communists?

I'm not arguing whether people have a right to be Communists. That's not the issue. But you people are pledged to a creed. You come before the public and say, "This is what we believe." And then you say, "We've got Communists, too."

NOW THE RESULT is that an adult like myself begins to think: 'Either those kids are phonies or they're idiots."

Because no Communist believes this creed. Communists don't believe in religious tolerance; they don't believe in religion; they think it's an opiate dished out by scheming capitalists. They are extremely intolerant atheists. They don't believe in civil liberties. They believe political freedom is a sop thrown to the masses to compensate them for the lack of "economic freedom." Did you ever happen to read Karl Marx on the subject of civil liberties? He thought they were the bunk. And so, of course, does Stalin. Of course, Communists believe that civil liberties are a very useful weapon for destroying what they call the bourgeois capitalist order, of which they think civil liberties are merely a part.

No Communists can honestly denounce class hatred. (Did you ever read Marx?) And no Communist can denounce all forms of dictatorship because "the dictatorship of the proletariat" is an essential part of their creed. And by the "Dictatorship of the Proletariat" they mean the dictatorship of the Communist Party which is a purely authoritarian organization ruled from the top Their creed and yours simply won't mix. So if they've accepted your creed they are either not Communists or they are taking you for a terrific ride. They think you are saps, and—forgive me—so do I.

I READ the speech of your administrative secretary, Miss Frances Williams. At the risk of seeming boringly and middle-agedly pedantic, do you mind my pointing out a few very incorrect statements that she made?

She said: "'The American Youth Congress will continue to welcome Communists within its ranks because the recent history of Italy, Germany, Austria, France and Canada proves that the suppression of Communists is always the opening gun in a general campaign on civil liberties."

The only trouble with this statement is that it is wholly untrue. The German Democratic Republic tolerated Communists. It did not suppress them. It gave them every freedom, and they energetically contributed to the destruction of the Republic. The Democratic Italian state did not suppress Communists. It tolerated them. And they energetically assisted to make the chaos out of which Fascism emerged.

France tolerated Communists until, urged on by the communists, it went to war against Naziism. Now the Communists are trying to make a revolution in France in the midst of war—which would certainly result in the invasion and conquest of France by the Nazis.

Do you know what Democratic countries have suppressed the Communists and made them an illegal party?

Finland and Switzerland. Only two. Have your own opinions about Finland, if you like. It is a great little country, and a democracy according to your creed, despite all the lies your Communists tell you. I've been there and they have not. But let's stick to Switzerland. There is probably greater tolerance and freedom in Switzerland than anywhere else. But they don't allow the Communist Party. And if you carry on a systematic campaign against a race or a religion in Switzerland they plunk you into jail. Funnily enough, they believe that the defense of civil liberty means the defense of civil liberty—against its enemies. The Swiss are irritatingly logical.

AND DID you really swallow that statement of Miss Williams that in France "the entire trade union movement has been suppressed"? That's a simple lie.

And didn't it seem odd to you that Miss Williams never mentioned the totalitarian suppressions of Soviet Russia or Nazi Germany—if the newspaper reports are correct?

Nazi Germany, my young friends, began by suppressing the Communists, the Socialists, the Liberals and the Democrats, and ended by making a pact with the Communists. Let that ring a bell in your heads!

And if I were you I'd have a lot more respect for some fatherly words nanded by the President of the United States than for a lot of soft soap ladled out by John L. Lewis.

The President told you the truth: It is hard to be young and it always has been hard. We have some serious and difficult problems to work out, and no one has yet found the whole answer. Mr. Lewis hasn't found it, either. The solution he proposed was to call a conference.

Wiser government could help you, but no government can make a life for you. Everybody born nto this world dies with the face he has made for himself. Intelligent government can help increase opportunity, but whether government is intelligent depends on whether you and I are intelligent. There's more sense in Pinocchio han in all John Lewis's demagogy. Even if a Fairy Princess ooks after you, you will still never be anything except a wooden boy or a donkey unless you make yourself into a human being—and the government can't do it for you.

There are two other things that perhaps you might consider putting into your creed. "I will try to maintain intellectual integrity," and "I will cultivate good manners."

Morality and manners have a good deal to do with the survival of democracy and liberty.

But They Did Not Get Drunk

We wonder which is the worst cognomen; being called a Communist or a whiskey head. The League of Young Democrats met in Oklahoma City recently and the management of the Biltmore Hotel advises the public before the sessions concluded, ending in a drunken orgy, more than $4,000.00 worth of costly paintings were destroyed by vandals.

Another set of young people who recently met in Washington have been called Communists, because in their deliberations, disagreement developed to the viewpoint of Congress and President Roosevelt regarding serious problems of government.

It is noticeable that in the frantic effort to besmirch the delegates to the American Youth Congress no one yet has elected to charge these serious minded youths with taking time out to get drunk. We wonder which group means most to future America. Was it the drunkards in the Bitlmore Hotel or the boys and girls who were fighting in Washington for democratic liberties and international peace?

A Bunch Of Saps

Dorothy Thompson, noted columnist, amused us several mornings ago when in her column delegates who attended the American Youth Congress were called a bunch of "saps." We will agree with Miss Thompson that this charge is true provided she will agree that all youth belong in this class including Dorothy Thompson and this writer when we were young.

The difference between youth and age is that youth believes in action and age in reaction. Youth is cock-sure and knows everything. Age, out of the wealth of experience is not so certain about things. Was it not Patrick Henry who said "The only lamp by which my feet is guided is the lamp of experience." Youth has no such lamp with which to secure chart and compass.

All humanity passes through the sap age, and many of us do not completely rid ourselves of this puerile propensity during a life time. That is one of the reasons why youth is so active today. Youth looks about and sees the awful mess into which the adult world has thrown every thing youth holds dear, and this is their bitter experience as they emerge from childhood.

After all we who reside in adult life are a bunch of saps if we believe present day youth will be satisfied emerging into manhood victims of a broken down economic system which offers nothing more than CCC, NYA and ernment and forced upon that black Republic an economic treaty, requiring the nation to re-write its constitution.

Even rats will leave a sinking ship, and here we stand in American life condemning youth because their inexperienced minds indulge in a little independent thinking. Youth seeks some way to lift itself above doles. We may laugh at their technique methods and childish ideas, but every one in adult life having discourse to reason understands their worthy objectives.

Youth looks at a war torn world. Chaos and confusion is everywhere. Those emerging into manhood and womanhood have listened for the past two decades to horrible stories of savagery and butchery eminating from the bloody battle fields of the last world war. Shell shocked, maimed, emaciated human skeletons reside in every community, living examples of the way their forebearers have ruined this old world of ours. Is it any wonder that youth cries out for peace.

We who live in adult years say we want peace, but when youth says the same thing and make gestures in the direction they think will arrive at such objectives, we call them Communists. We did not think the youth of America was thinking clearly when they refused to condemn Russia for the invasion of Finland. We think youth should have condemned in its Congress sessions the invasion of Ethiopia, Poland and the subjection of all peoples denied their freedom and atonomy.

But we in the United States who condemn youth forget American history tells youth of a time when the United States assumed the same attitude towards Haiti in 1915 as is assumed by Russia in Finland today. We landed marines under the command of Admiral Caperton on the Island of Haiti, murdered 3000 odd natives, siezed the government and forced upon them an economic treaty, requiring the nation to re-write its constitution.

Why should we assume we could cut such a horrible pattern of economic slavery, murder and injustice and then expect the sons of the men who did this to develop a different character of morality? Perhaps in the light of this history the delegates attending the American Youth Congress were not thinking independently. Perhaps they did not want to place themselves in the light of breaking American precedents? They may have thought to condemn invasion would in effect be condemning their forebears.

Understand now, we think the American Youth Congress should have condemned the invasion of Finland, but we do not want to charge the delegates with being communists just because there is indulgence in an idiology common to American practice and ideas of imperialism.

But we do think American Youth was standing squarely for peace when condemnation was given efforts to make American loans to Finland. If we honestly and sincerely desire to stay out of this rapidly developing world war, we should certainly keep our American dollars at home. It should be quite evident to every one now (despite false propaganda) that Finland cannot withstand Russian might. If we loan money to a government that may be blotted out over night, how do we expect to be repaid? Certainly we would not expect Russia to liquidate obligations made to Finland at this moment.

Yes, American youths are a bunch of saps, and as we look at the world today, with its broken down economic systems, its war and carnage, its race prejudices, its starving millions, diseased and illiterate, we wonder whether or not all humanity should be designated as a bunch of saps.

Peace Movement

SEP 8 1940

THE peace movement of this country is seriously endangered. There are many saboteurs who oppose any efforts calculated to prevent war and to make neutrality work in the manner that it should.

It is very unfortunate that name-calling has been resorted to for the obvious purpose of intercepting well meaning programs designed to effect and perpetuate peace on this hemisphere.

Persons who are against sending ships to England are termed appeasers and Nazi sympathizers. Those who think that the United States is leading a too aggressive role in the European conflicts are either communists or fascists. The name callers are unable to understand how any person with good sense can desire the country to stay out of this war that involves the very life of our civilization. They fail to see how any sane group of people loyal to their government can disagree with the method that the state department has seen fit to follow in dealing with the aggressors of other lands.

It is unfortunate that those who do the name-calling have the largest machines of propaganda by which they can poison the minds of millions of people who do not know what it is all about.

Freedom of thought and expression are the landmarks of our democracy and the unlimited right of everyone to exercise it in a manner consistent with democratic ideals. When any group attempts to circumvent the exercise of those ideals it acts in a manner contrary to the principles of our government. It acts in an undemocratic and un-American manner. Its acts are not those that promote good will among the citizens. They practice a type of coercion which when carried to its logical end discourages freedom of expression.

The next few months will see further and more stifling of the freedom of expression granted to American citizens. That is how wars are made. Those who are against it are encouraged not to express their views. But that is not the way of democracy.

PEACE MOBILIZATION

Dispatch 8-17-40 Chicago, Ill.

Chicago is to play host to the peace lovers of our country from August 31 to September 2. The Emergency Peace Mobilization will bring together some of the foremost spokesmen against our involvement in the European war. The threat that this war is being spread to the Western Hemisphere is greater than ever.

Negro America is vitally interested in this question. There are approximately 50 millions of Negroes or their descendants in the United States, the West Indies, Latin and South America. But nowhere are they completely free from the system of segregation and Jim Crowism which has the trade mark of our own country branded upon it.

War will bring fascism closer home. Fascism will still further worsen the living conditions of black men. Say what you will about our persecution here at home, fascism has treated its Jewish populations worse. It would do to Negroes in the U.S.A. what it has done to Jews abroad.

United States senators will speak on these issues at the Emergency Peace Mobilization. Howard university will be represented. Paul Robeson will be present. In fact those Americans who see the road to national defense as paved with security for the aged and the members of minority groups, Americans who speak for equality of opportunity for all, will voice their opposition to this war.

The Emergency Peace Mobilization is therefore of the greatest interest to Negro America. Delegates from every Negro organization in the country should be elected to it.

Peace is so burning an issue that we propose a Peace Sunday. Let the Negro church come forward to take the lead in an issue that effects all of American life. Let our preachers blaze the question of democracy at home as the first step to world peace. If every country granted full democratic rights to the oppressed and persecuted masses within its own borders or within the colonial lands there would be no basis for war.

Let Negro America prepare to fight for national defense by preparing to struggle more determinedly against segregation, lynch law, the poll tax and chain gang. Mobilize for peace in Chicago.

Meeting on Peace Said Communistic

Constitution 8-27-40 Atlanta, Ga.

CHICAGO, Aug. 26.—(AP)—A war of words developed as a prelude to the "Emergency Peace Mobilization" scheduled for next weekend in the Chicago stadium.

The National Labor Committee of the Socialist party announced that it had advised trade unionists, "Liberal" groups and peace societies against participation in the rally because the committte deemed it "Communist inspired and controlled from end to end."

Later, the Rev. John B. Thompson, director of the body sponsoring the demonstration, said: "The mobilization has been called by more than 100 individuals—churchmen, educators, labor and farm leaders who have joined the committee to defend America by keeping out of war. About 15,000 Americans, representing millions throughout the nation, will gather in Chicago to express their determination to defend America, to keep America democratic, to keep America out of war."

CHICAGO
PEACE MOBILIZATION

SO-CALLED PEACE RALLY ATTRACTS SPARSE AUDIENCE

Chicago Tuesday Tribune Sept. 1 1940

Rep. Fries Withdraws from Speaker List.

A crowd which filled only half of the Chicago Stadium turned out yesterday for the opening sessions of a three day conference described as the Emergency Peace Mobilization. The conference, sponsored by the Gommittee to Defend America by Keeping Out of War, reputedly is backed by communist forces.

Andy Frain, head of the staff of ushers, estimated that 11,000 persons were in the Stadium shortly after 9 p. m. when Paul Robeson, noted Negro baritone, arose to sing "The Ballad for Americans."

Rep. Fries Withdraws.

Before the meeting Congressman Frank W. Fries [D., Ill.] added his to previous withdrawals of scheduled speakers. United States Senators Gerald P. Nye [Rep., N. D.] and D. Worth Clark [D. Idaho] canceled their engagements Friday, saying they did not see how their appearances would help in keeping this country out of war.

Oswald Garrison Villard and Harry Elmer Barnes, both liberal authors, announced in New York yesterday they also were quitting as sponsors of the demonstration.

Chief speakers yesterday were Jack McMichael, chairman of the American Youth Congress, and Reid Robinson, president of the International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers.

Draft Measure Denounced.

McMichael said his group, which has been accused of having a communist tinge, was one of the originators of the rally. He denounced the draft bill and the suggestion to send 50 destroyers to Great Britain.

Robinson, altho he admitted the defense program was making jobs for many members of his union, expressed opposition to the program.

Cost of renting the Stadium by the backers of the rally is $9,000, it was learned. Each delegate paid $1 for admission to all sessions. Most of the money for the rental was reported to have been raised by New York unions listed among the rally's sponsors.

Chicago Sets Tag Day for Peace Rally

Daily Worker 8-15-46
New York N.Y.

Paul Robeson Is Guest of Honor at Banquet to Launch 3-Day Mobilization Against Draft and Drive to War

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, Aug. 15.—A Peace Banquet with Paul Robeson, the great Negro baritone, as guest of honor will be held here Saturday afteronn, Aug. 31, 1:00 o'clock, it was announced here today. The banquet in the Bulevard Room of the Stevens Hotel will precede the huge Emergency Peace Mobilization rally at the Chicago Stadium in the evening which opens a three-day session. Robeson will be the featured soloist at the rally, singing "Ballad for Americans" with a full chorus.

Meanwhile, local preparations for the peace mobilization continued to center this week behind the anti-conscription fight being carried on by the People's Federation for Peace.

TAG DAY SET

A Tag Day using anti-conscription buttons and petition lists will be held next Saturday, Aug. 17, beginning at 1:00 P. M. Using the slogan, "A Million Dimes for Peace," the taggers will proceed from 25 centers throughout the city. Numerous church, youth and Negro organizers are supplying the people who will conduct the tag day.

Several hundred thousand anti-conscription leaflets are being passed out daily in Chicago's Loop and outlying districts. More than 100,000 copies of an attractive leaflet headed "Thumbs Down on Conscription!" were distributed at the city beaches last Sunday. Simultaneously an airplane passed over the city's crowded beaches and ball parks carrying this streamer: "No Conscription! Tell Congress! Join EPM!"

A dozen organizers for the emergency Peace Mobilization were working downstate this week to secure a huge Illinois delegation for the August 31 September 2 rally. They have succeeded in establishing many local peace committees and in contacting civic, farm and labor leaders for endorsements of the EPM.

Several radio station's will also broadcast a short speech against the war draft which has been recorded by the peace organization on an electrical transcription.

PAUL ROBESON

COMMUNIST PARTY BEHIND LABOR DAY CONFAB, ALLEGED

Work in Colored Communities Being Carried Out By Various Branches of National Negro Congress—Yergan, Davis, Robeson in Vanguard.

NEW YORK, Aug. 29.—The Communist Party was accused of organizing and dominating the Labor Day Peace Conference in Chicago as scores of left-wing organizations here worked strenuously this week to send large Negro delegations to the Windy City parley.

The charges were made by metropolitan newspapers following an analysis of the various organizations participating in the much-publicized conference. The analysis showed that none of the long-established and recognized peace organiaztions nor the non-Communist opponents of conscription were listed among the co-operating groups.

The chief mobiliaztion work in the Negro communities has been carried out by the various branches of the National Negro Congress which is headed by Dr. Max Yergan, president of the national organiaztion.

Dr. Yergan succeeded A. Philip Randolph as head of that organization when the latter resigned in protest against Communist domination of the Congress. Prior to that Dr. Yergan had been active in the Harlem People's Committee for the Aid of Spanish Refugees, another group which was denounced as Communist-dominated.

Much of the Negro mobilization has been pushed by John P. Davis, secretary of the Congress who replaced Randolph on a radio broadcast at the Washington meeting of the Congress after the latter had publicly criticized the Communists in his resignation.

Paul Robeson, ardent defender of the Soviet system, is also listed as the principal singer at the rally which is scheduled to be addressed by Congressman Vito Marcantonio of Harlem's 20th District. Congressman Marcentonio is allied with the left-wing faction of the American Labor Party and cast the sole vote against the national defense bill.

The National Negro Congress has not been alone in seeking mobilization for the conference which is being shunned by such recognized peace groups as the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the War Resisters League, the Youth Committee Against War, the National Council for Prevention of War and similar groups.

Various "youth" groups have been addressing crowds on Seventh and Lenox avenues and many former leaders of left-wing organizations have been raising funds to send Negro delegates to the Chicago rally.

Neither Randolph, nor any other prominent outspoken opponents of conscription, have been identified with the groups in their Harlem activities.

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Mass Rally Tonight to Hear Marcantonio; Robeson to Sing

By Art Shields

(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

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Meeting from Saturday till early Monday afternoon the peace delegates will lay plans for effectively continuing the fight for peace when they return to their homes. Definite plans for continuing the fight for peace in an organized way will be made, delegates said.

Thousands of Chicagoans and delegates are expected to pack the huge Chicago stadium tomorrow night to hear Rep. Vito Marcantonio and Dr. Francis Townsend, leader of the old-age pension movement. Paul Robeson, world-famous Negro singer, will lead a chorus of 200 voices in the "Ballad for Americans" at the giant peace rally.

Huge peace slogans—the handiwork of the artists union—hang around the great Chicago auditorium, telling the people to "Keep America Out of the War," to "Defend America by Protecting Civil Liberties" and calling for "a job not a gun."

KEYNOTE SPEECH

And the slogan "Mobilize for Peace," will face the delegates in ten foot high letters rising from the platform.

Delegates arriving for the great conference say that they will profit from the lessons of the vigorous People's Council of World War No. 1, which failed to lay solid plans for the future at its Chicago meeting in September 1917.

The keynote speech, which will indicate the direction the conference plans will probably take, will be made a few minutes after the conference opens by the Rev. John B. Thompson of Norman, Oklahoma, chairman of the Committee to Defend America by Keeping Out of War (otherwise known as the Emergency Peace Mobilization).

Rev. Thompson, who expresses the anti-war sentiments of the masses of people of the western plains, is a vital force in the fight for Peace.

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Joseph Curran, President, the National Maritime Union (Saturday afternoon);

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So does Rabbi Moses Miller, head of the National Jewish Peoples Committee.

There are many other distinguished speakers.

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They are here to organize a national peace movement and then go back to their homes to build the peace movement at home.

SOUTHERN DELEGATES

The 250 and more Southern delegates are a refreshing contrast to the bitter old Tories I heard appealing for conscription in the Senate debates at Washington last week. These bitter old Tories are not the people—they are not elected by the masses of the people, but by the small percentage of the electorate who can pay poll taxes.

But the 30 Negro and 30 white delegates from Birmingham — they are the people, whom Abraham Lincoln would have loved. . . . These steel workers, miners and evicted cotton farmers—they are the people.

Abraham Lincoln would have loved a man like Gerald Harris, vice-president of the Farmers Union in Alabama, a muscular dark man in his early 40's, who comes here to speak for peace. He's a fighter for peace. He went to Washington this month with a Labor's Non Partisan League delegation to ask his Senators and Representatives to vote against conscription, and the Birmingham police locked him up when he returned. Now he's out and up here to carry the fight, which the Senators fudged, to the American people themselves.

Every Southern state is represented here—every state of old Dixie from the banks of the Potomac to the banks of the Rio Grande. The Southern people want peace, despite war-mongers like Connally of Texas and Carter Glass of Virginia.

"Don't forget that the Southern people had no chance to vote against conscription in the Senate this week," said Malcolm Cotton Dobbs, young Texan and Executive Secretary of the League of Young Southerners, who is taking a leading part in the Peace fight.

"The vast majority of the Southern people," continued Dobbs, "are disfranchised by the poll taxes. They had no voice in choosing the Senators who voted to militarize America. Many of the delegates who came here can't vote. . . . But they are here to show the world that they want peace, and their wishes must not be disregarded."

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The Negroes cannot forget. . . . They cannot forget while lynchings go on. . . . One reminded me of two more murders by Alabama police just recently, one in the Tennessee Coal and Iron town of Fairfield, near Birmingham.

The people behind those murders are the people behind conscription and war.

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Twenty loggers and lumber mill workers from the CIO woodworkers' union, in the Pacific Northwest and seamen and fishermen and progressional men and farm workers are arriving from the coast.

"Seamen know that war will smash every condition they have won by years of struggle unless they prevent it," said Walter Stack, an officer of the Marine Firemens' and Oilers' in San Francisco, and a trustee of the Maritime Federation.

A National Maritime Union delegate from Philadelphia said the M-Day would revive the Black Legion terror movement in Michigan, the busiest automobile and other motor cities.

Hundreds of CIO workers are coming here today to fight against M-Day. A hundred delegates are arriving from Flint, Michigan, the busiest factory town in the country.

Hundreds more are coming from the Settlement House workers will be there with other professionals, for the Reverend Jones, chairman of the Settlement House Association of Detroit, has asked all settlement

houses to be represented at the Chicago Stadium's peace conference.

Delegates from Minnesota and Wisconsin would more than fill an army battalion. From Duluth, Minn., for instance are arriving Finnish-Americans, Swedish-Americans and many other kinds of Americans. They represent the Duluth CIO Council and local CIO unions; the Duluth Peace Council, the Youth Council, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and other groups.

A goodly block of seats will be filled by the delegates from Minneapolis and St. Paul, with farmers from the country around sitting with them.

Farmers' Union men in Minnesota and many other places are warmly cooperating.

CIO packinghouse workers from Austin, Minnesota, are also taking part in the move in Chicago against M-Day.

Carload after carload of Wisconsin delegates are driving the Badger State's mark up towards the 700 or more fighters for peace that field organizers for the Emergency Peace Mobilization have promised.

The Peace Conference has been well advertized at county fairs and in many meetings.

Crude attempts by some Socialist Party leaders to sabotage the anti-war conference with cries that it was "red" were spiked at a recent press conference in Milwaukee, in which Mrs. Meta Berger, widow of the late Victor Berger, and the chairman of the Ministers Association of Milwaukee took part.

The Ministers' Association representative told newspapermen that he was advising affiliated clergymen to take part in this movement for peace.

The Committee to Defend America By Keeping Out of War today also made public an exchange of letters between it and Senators Gerald P. Nye and D. Worth Clark on the withdrawal of the two Senators from the Mobilization.

Rev. John B. Thompson, Chairman
Committee to Defend America By
Keeping Out of War
203 N. Wabash Street
Chicago, Ill. August 28

Our sympathies are with each and every individual and collective effort to break this march of our country into war. We know that you and many of the fine sponsors have but one purpose you are serving. But we do not see how with the division as seems to prevail with respect to the Chicago meeting we could contribute to the fine cause of keeping out of war. Please excuse us from the plans made for us to address the conference Saturday night. And understand please that we are not reflecting in the least upon you and the many fine people whose names appear as sponsors of the conference. Sincerest regrets.

Senator Gerald P. Nye

Signed, **Senator D. Worth Clark**

Senator Gerald P. Nye
Senator D. Worth Clark
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. August 29

It is tragic that at this time certain people who place petty grudges and unfounded suspicions above the great task of stopping conscription and involvement in war should have prevailed upon you. It is a matter of deep personal regret to me and a disappointment to many others that you who have been such an inspiration to the peace forces should yield to such pressure in a time of grave crisis. This will be a source of great satisfaction to those groups whom you and I know to be leading us toward war.

There are times when it is easy to work for those things which you and I hold dear. There are times such as 1917 and today when peace itself is suspect. It is in such times that we must stand together despite all efforts to divide us. The emergency peace mobilization will bring together for the first time farm and labor movements, old age and youth, church and women groups. It is the only national medium for the expression of the will of our people to stay at peace that is of sufficient magnitude to be effective. Those who attack it are purposely or unwittingly giving aid and comfort to the forces who would stifle democracy in our country and jeopardize its peace. I know that is not your intention.

I pray that it may not be the effect of your decision. The Emergency Peace Mobilization will give tremendous impetus to those ideas which you have held and I am sure that you will rejoice with me in its success.

(Signed) **John B. Thompson**
Chairman, Committee to Defend America by Keeping Out of War

Organizer

W. HAROLD FLOWERS
Militant Pine Bluff attorney, is director of organization of the newly-formed Committee of Negro Organizations which is attracting wide attention in Arkansas. Patterned after the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the C.N.O. is at present confining its activties to Arkansas.

By FRANCES SAMPSON

STAMPS, Ark., March 22—In this once thriving little sawmill town, a fine tribute was paid W. Harold Flowers, fighting young Pine Bluff lawyer who was born and reared in this community, when more than 200 citizens endorsed the militant program of the "Committee on Negro Organization," at a mass meeting held at Buchanan Baptist church.

Amid wild acclaim the Committee on Negro Organization launched its campaign to organize more than 400,000 Race citizens in Arkansas.

Leaders Participate

Dr. Roscoe C. Lewis, of Hope, chairman of the CNO committee on health and housing; Dr. G. U. Jamison, Jr., of Texarkana, chairman of the CNO committee on civil liberties, and Flowers, secretary of the committee participated in a panel discussion on "The Program of the CNO."

Others who spoke during the day were Tyler Rainey, athletic coach of the Yerger high school, Hope; William H. Smith, school principal at Kizer; S. B. Young, Jr., of Prescott; Rev. E. W. Warren, Falcon; J. W. Gallon, and L. N. Gaines secretary and president of the Lewisville Negro Taxpayers' Association, and M. B. Wesley, school teacher at Buckner.

"Dime For Democracy"

The CNO accepted a 10 cent coin from Rev. John W. Nelson, 65-year-old Baptist preacher, as the first contribution to its "Dime for Democracy Fund."

The money collected will be used to defray expenses of carrying the CNO program to Arkansas communities and to sponsor an organizational meeting in December for the proposed "Congress of Negro Organizations."

Charges Blackout

Six young professional men sat on the platform, presenting a striking demonstration of unanimity of purpose, thought, and action when Flowers charged that there was "a blackout of democracy in Arkansas."

"The young leadership of the CNO possesses enough brain power and courage," he declared, "to revolutionize the thinking of the people of Arkansas."

CNO Objectives

"The CNO has two primary objectives: (1) to seek the endorsement of its program by church, civic, fraternal, and social organizations, and (2) to solicit funds to sponsor an organizational meeting for a proposed 'Congress of Negro Organizations' to be held in Pine Bluff, December 27-28," Flowers said.

"In Arkansas, we have no organization adequately set up to serve the needs of the Negro citizens. We do not have organizations which will even publicize the many and all too numerous daily un-American activities of its citizens. The Committee on Negro Organization realizes the unlimited scope of the undertaking it now enters upon, that is, to organize the Negroes in Arkansas." he declared.

Would Lay Plans For World Confab Of Colored People

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.,

OCT 6 1940

To Hold Meeting In BWI

Future Of Group To Be Discussed

KINGSTON, Jamaica, B.W.I.—(ANP)—A committee headed by Montclair E. Hoffman, white and composed of Rudolph A. Burke, Amy Bailey, and Ina Bailey, has issued a call for a meeting this weekend at Mount Ida, Hector's River Post Office near here, to discuss the possibility of calling a World Conference of Colored People.

"The purpose of the week-end Conference at Mount Ida is to consider the advisibility of calling a World Conference of the Colored Race immediately after the close of the war.

"If this is agreed upon, steps will be discussed leading toward organization and preliminary work for such a conference.

"The questions before us are What shall be the purpose of such a conference? How may, plans be laid and organization formed to best accomplish the purpose? Where shall such a conference be held? Who shall composed its personnel? How will it be financed?

"There is a strong feeling here that this critical stage of world history holds vast possibilities for good or ill to the colored race and the future of the group will depend, not only on the outcome of the struggle, important as that may be, but upon the keen preparation of the colored people to participate in the New World that will emerge and is already emerging from the present upheaval."

Negro Leaders and Organizations

Under auspices of the National Negro Council and United Government Employes, launch $100,000 campaign and 10 point program for Unity and Racial Goodwill back of the President and Congress following the two-day conference in Washington D. C., Shiloh Baptist Church, Nov. 17, 1940. Edgar G. Brown, President United Government Employes. Chairman and Director.

NOV 21 1940

This convention of the National Negro Council called by the United Government Employes Inc., leaders of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the National Baptist Convention Inc., speaking in the name of 12,000,000 loyal, patriotic Negro Americans devoted to the cause of peace, good-will, National Unity and Total Defense unanimously pledges its unreserved confidence in and support of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the chosen leader of the American people for the next four years and the proven friend of the common man regardless of race creed or color.

We, the National Negro Council, therefore indorse all aid to Britain, money, ships, planes everything SHORT of the exclusion by the federal government of the Negro Americans rights and constitutional opportunity in our democracy to work, fight and live. The Negro people representing one-tenth of the total American people in the United States whose traditional patriotism and loyalty in our institutions in peace and war have never been questioned and the other millions in the Caribbean Islands, Central and South America demand of the President and Congress in the name of Christianity civilization, the democratic way of life, the "Good Neighbor Policy" in this hemisphere:

Sanction of the following resolutions: * * * *

Committee on resolutions, National Negro Council:

Edgar G. Brown, chairman, president United Government Employees Inc.

Rev. C. T. Murphy, trustee, National Baptist Convention, Inc., and President Baptist Convention of District of Columbia.

Bishop R. R. Wright, Jr., African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dr. W. H. Jernigan, president, National Sunday School Congress.

Willard W. Allen, president, Southern Life Insurance Company and vice president National Negro Business League.

G. N. T. Gray, Welfare director, National Alliance of Postal Employees and Thomas P. Bomar, Secretary National Alliance of Postal Employees.

WE HAVE TOO MANY SELF CALLED CONGRESSES AND CONVENTIONS WITHOUT CONSTITUENTS

Globe & Independent
Nashville, Tenn.

DEC 13 1940

We have entirely too many conventions and racial congresses, but only a few of them breed any practical good to the race. The most of them are impractical and furnish the theoretical leaders, the opportunity to display their oratorical ability and the chance to pass a few resolutions dictatorial in temperament and resolving that the impossible be done, by a third party. To illustrate the foolishness of these conferences and congresses, let us tell what happened in one of these congresses at Washington not long ago. This Washington congress, resolved that the President be called upon to appoint one of his personal private secretaries, a Negro; and pledge himself to appoint a Negro lawyer to the first vacancy that may appear in the United States Supreme Court. We never heard of anything more nonsensical and which demonstrated more effectively, the Negro's idea of efficient government.

This congress proved its lack of knowledge of the essence of popular government, and defeats the ends of democracy, the congress talked so much about and knew so little of its practical philosophy. The congress did not seem to know, that the President's six personal private secretaries, were not public officers or accountable to the public for their stewardship. The President has the Constitutional right to appoint these secretaries, and they are accountable to him only. And in turn, he is responsible to the people for the conduct of his secretaries public or private. This point does not stick with the appointees to the United States Supreme Court bench. The judges are the servants of the people, but not accountable to the people or the President; but are accountable to the Constitution of the United States; and ought not to respond to the people's changing opinions; but follow the Constitution whether its decisions please or displease the people.

In our personal opinion, that if the President undertook to comply with the far-fetched resolutions of the congress, and left it to the Negroes themselves to select one of his private secretaries and a member of the Supreme Court; he would never be able to make an appointment, because, the Negroes never would agree among themselves whom the President should select for either post. The President could easily find a thousand capable Negro men and women to fill the position of one of his secretaries with honor to his Excellency and credit to themselves, but he would have a hard time finding a Negro lawyer capable of sitting on the Supreme Court bench. Not because there is no Negro competent, but because the Negroes could not agree upon anyone of their race. We have in mind about six Negro lawyers in the United States of America, equally capable as a majority of the white lawyers the President has promoted from nowhere to the highest court of our land, for personal or political reasons possibly.

In Andrew Carnegie's day, he was asked what was his judgment of the qualifications of a private public secretary. He said, "I will give you the names of three men,whom I know have records answering your questions better than I, viz: George B. Cortelyou, New York, Emmett J. Scott, Alabama and T. Addison Porter of Connecticut. Messrs. Cortleyou and Porter are dead, but if the Negro congress has put the President on the spot he can find Emmett J. Scott in Washington, D. C.

DETROIT YOUTH OF BOTH RACES HOLD CONFAB

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Ill.

Plan For Future At 3-Day Meet

DEC 15 1940

By ROBERT A. CRUMP

DETROIT, Dec. 12—(ANP)—It was truly a cosmopolitan group which comprised the "Youth Assembly" of Greater Detroit which met in a three day conference at the Lucy Thurman "Y" here Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The assembly, "dedicated to a democratic way of life", delved deeply into every phase of American life and laid plans for concerted action to bring about more consideration and better conditions for the youth of today.

Vocational training, job placement and work conditions, school facilities, curriculum, academic freedom, health, housing and recreation, national minorities and civil liberties were among the things brought forward in a round table discussion with unusual interest and avowed determination that these matters shall not end in a mere talk fest.

While young people of every racial group and nationality in the city, both girls and boys, were present, a Negro youth, Leonard Troutman, chairman of the District Youth Council of the N. A. A. C. P. was elected president of the continuation committee of the assembly.

137 Delegates Attend Confab

The 137 delegates and 80 observers at the assembly represented 62 organizations with a direct membership of 107,200 young persons, according to the report of the credentials committee. Their average age was 23. They came from settlement houses, churches, CIO and A. F. of L. trade unions, nationality groups, Negro, student and fraternal organizations, social clubs and others. The assembly was more broadly representative of Detroit youth than any previous gathering ever held in this city under the sponsorship of young people themselves. Adult community leaders participated by giving advice and information, but took no part in the making of decisions.

In a declaration of principles adopted by the delegates, the young participants stated, in part, that their assembly arose out of their "desire to make our great industrial Detroit a home of learning, opportunity, and equal well-being for all its people. We want to assure the fruits of our industrial and cultural heritage to all races, creeds and colors.

"We want to maintain our city a citadel of freedom—of conscience, of the religious spirit, of speech and press, for labor, for minority groups, for all people."

YOUNG WOMEN AIR PROBLEMS

Winifred Norman Is Elected To Office At 3-Day Session

DEC 21 1940

Delegates from throughout America conferred here at the Riverside Plaza Hotel, Seventy-third St. and Broadway, from Friday through Sunday, and went on record as wanting young women to take active participation in all phases of the nation's life.

Amsterdam News

A permenent committee of young women was set up to act as a coordinating center to carry out the program of the conference through existing organizations. Miss Winifred Norman, vice-chairman of the Harlem Youth Congress, was elected vice-chairman of this permanent committee.

New York N.Y.

Fifteen hundred delegates and observers, about 100 being from Harlem, met at the conference and aired the numerous problems with which they are faced. Among the speakers were Josephine Timms, secretary-treasurer of the American Communications Association; Janet Skner, member of the Student Council at Adelphia College and of the National Student Federation of America; Jean Horie, executive secretary of the New York Youth Congress; and Thelma Dale, leader in the Southern Negro Youth Congress, who announced that "the condition of Negro women in this country constitutes a direct challenge to and indictment of our democracy."

Miss Dale outlined specific problems common to all young Negro woman as indications that Negro women do not reap the benefits of democracy. She made reference to the shameful "Bronx Slave Market" in which Negro women sell their labor on street corners for as little as ten cents an hour.

WE HAVE TOO MANY SELF CALLED CONGRESSES AND CONVENTIONS WITHOUT CONSTITUENTS

Clarke Independent
Marshall Texas.

DEC 13 1940

We have entirely too many conventions and racial congresses, but only a few of them breed any practical good to the race. The most of them are impractical and furnish the theoretical leaders, the opportunity to display their oratorical ability and the chance to pass a few resolutions dictatorial in temperament and resolving that the impossible be done, by a third party. To illustrate the foolishness of these conferences and congresses, let us tell what happened in one of these congresses at Washington not long ago. This Washington congress, resolved that the President be called upon to appoint one of his personal private secretaries, a Negro; and pledge himself to appoint a Negro lawyer to the first vacancy that may appear in the United States Supreme Court. We never heard of anything more nonsensical and which demonstrated more effectively, the Negro's idea of efficient government.

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lead, but if the Negro congress has put the President on the pot he can find Emmett J. Scott in Washington, D. C.

Jamaican Chosen Secretary of League Of Colored Peoples

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va.
NOV 9 1940

LONDON, England, (ANP)—A. A. Thompson of Jamaica was chosen recently by the executive committee of the League of Coloured Peoples to act as general secretary. He came to England in 1937 and entered college, graduating in the faculty of arts in 1939.

Last June he obtained the Cambridge teacher's certificate. He is interested in primary education and hopes to gain some practical experience before returning home.

Jackson Named by P. O. As Alliance Delegate

Sydney M. Jackson, veteran officer of the National Alliance of Postal Employees, was selected, last week, by the Post Office Department to be its representative at the Third Annual Convention of the Second District of the National Alliance to be held in Baltimore, June 22.

The letter of appointment came from William J. Bray, secretary to the Postmaster General. Mr. Jackson will address the convention as the official spokesman of the Post Office Department.

He is one of the well known stalwarts of the National Alliance of Postal Employees. He joined the organization in 1914 and with Emory A. Bryant was instrumental in bringing the Alliance to this part of the country. He was elected national secretary of the organization in 1915 and was re-elected to the office for five consecutive terms of two years each.

Entered Service in 1907

Mr. Jackson entered the Post Office service in 1907 as substitute clerk, was appointed regular in 1908 and finally advanced to his present position of assistant chief clerk-at-large. He was appointed to this position in 1936.

The work of Mr. Jackson is of highly specialized character consisting of departmental matters and matters affecting the colored personnel in all branches of the service. Mr. Jackson is said to be largely responsible for the cordial relations which exist between the Alliance and the postal officials.

Alliance is Non-Partisan

The National Alliance of Postal Employees is a non-partisan organization composed of nine districts. Each district is composed of several branches. On the executive committee of District 2, which is holding the convention in Baltimore, are Royal W. Bailey, president; James W. Traynaham, vice president; Richard W. Gant, secretary; Magnus J. Shelby, treasurer. District 2 is composed of branches in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and the District of Columbia.

Expected at the Baltimore convention are Lieutenant Leon M. Anderson, former national secretary and foreman D. C. P. O.; National Secretary Thomas P. Bomar; National Welfare Director G. N. T. Gray, and Mrs. G. N. T. Gray, national president of the Ladies Auxiliary. National President L. F. Ford may also attend the convention. Sessions will be held at the St. James Parish Hall.

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS MEETING AT TUSKEGEE

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. (ANP)—Friday night, forty-two agricultural workers, representing eight States, met at Tuskegee Institute and laid the foundation for organizing the National Association of Negro Agricultural Workers.

Agricultural Workers Form National Society

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. —(ANP)—Forty-two agricultural workers, representing eight states, recently met here and laid the foundation for organizing the National Association of Negro Agricultural Workers.

The purpose of the organization is to serve as a clearing house for colored agricultural workers and to assist them in becoming a more effective force in the changing agricultural conditions which they must face.

The meeting was called through a local committee composed of Dr. M. F. Spaulding, professor of agronomy, chairman; T. M. Campbell, field agent, extension service, and T. N. Roberts, soil conservation service, appointed by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee.

OFFICERS CHOSEN

Dr. M. F. Spaulding was elected chairman of the committee to make plans for the next meeting in 1941. He will be assisted by T. N. Roberts, acting secretary, and Miss L. C. Hanna, acting treasurer.

Among the persons representing the various state and government agencies were:

Florida, B. L. Perry; West Virginia, A. Curtis, Sr.; Louisiana, T. J. Jordan and John Fisher; Mississippi, M. M. Hubert; Tennessee, R. A. Mundy; Alabama, A. Floyd, Richard Morrison, Nicholas Kollock, Victor Turner, Misses L. C. Hanna, Bennie Mae Ware, and Thelma Dick; Missouri, James N. Freeman.

Washington officials attending the conference were: Cornelius King, FCA; W. N. Elam, federal agent, vocational agricultural education, Department of the Interior; A. L. Holsey, field representative AAA. Other government agricultural officials present were: T. M. Campbell, William E. Street, regional supervisor, FSA.

Several state extension service workers, soil conservation workers, and other workers representing agricultural agencies were also present.

Plans were perfected for organizing state groups who will name representatives for constitution, publicity, membership and executive committees.

Dixie Congressman Protests Discrimination Of White Men By Letter Carriers Group

Claims 187 White Mail Carriers Were Not Permitted To Join Association; Seek Adjustment

WASHINGTON, May (ANP)—The strange spectacle of a Southern congressman protesting against discrimination against white men was revealed in a hearing at the Wednesday session of the house civil service committee when Congressman Rampspeck declared that the 187 white mail carriers of his district in Atlanta were not permitted to join the National Letter Carriers association, thereby not entitled to benefits asked for by members of the post office service.

Also appearing before the committee was G. N. T. Gray of the National Alliance of Postal Employes who made a strong appeal for the workers in the mail service. Gray said in part:

"I have heard Chairman Ramspeck on several occasions pay deserved tribute to the workings of civil service as exemplified in the post office department. After 30 years in the postal service, I feel that it is not only civil service at its best, but it comes nearer than anything else I know of, to being democracy at its best. At that it has not reached the millineum for the members of my organization."

All members of the postal alliance are Negroes and Gray was seeking to have adjustments made which would benefit them as well as white workers.

——Cooking School, May 1, 2, 3——

NEGROES ASK PLACE ON SUPREME COURT

(The Associated Press)

NOV 19 1940

Washington, Nov. 18.—The National Negro Council asked Sunday that the next supreme court vacancy be filled by a Negro and that President Roosevelt appoint a Negro as one of his six White House secretaries. The proposals were made in a resolution adopted at a convention of the council. The convention was called by the United Government Employes, Inc., leaders of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the National Baptist Convention, Inc. The resolution also endorsed "all aid" to Britain, urged that all Negro army reserve officers be called to active duty and placed in command of the four Negro regiments of the regular army, and proposed appointment of a Negro civilian aid to the secretary of the navy.

NEGROES ARE CALLED TO FORM '2D' PARTY

National Congress Head Says Only One Major Group Is Left

NOV 18 1940

A call to Negroes to take leadership in the formation of a second major political party, "because the recent election proved there is now only one major party in the United States," was made yesterday by Dr. Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress, to 300 delegates at the closing session of the New York State Conference of the congress in the Park Palace, 5 West 110th Street.

Dr. Yergan attacked both the Republicans and Democrats because neither party, he said, offered anything constructive to domestic problems. Particularly, he said, neither promised to eliminate the major problems before Negroes today—unemployment, bad housing, poll taxes in the South, Jim Crowism and discrimination in national defense industries.

Those persons who have denounced the congress, he said, for going on record against our giving full aid to Britain, underestimate the mentality of the American Negro.

"We need no lessons in patriotism and Americanism from the propagandists who would have us fight on the side of imperialistic Britain," he declared. "Our fight in these crucial times is for the establishment of a great, powerful democracy at home that no nation will dare attack."

A delegation was appointed to go before Governor Lehman with a request that all available money be spent for low rent housing for Negroes. The conference resolved also to send a protest to President Roosevelt against Jim Crowism in the armed forces of the United States.

and costly national liabilities. In war the gains so painfully made through years of laborious advancement will be lost through the inevitable development of a fascist dictatorship which must destroy all hope for Negroes in America."

He attacked Great Britain for keeping African Negroes in subjagation, allowing the existence of segregation laws in Australia, permitting discrimination in Canada and leaving Ethiopia at the mercy of Italy. He said that no Negro could fight for Britain and the preservation of such undemocratic principles.

In a telegram sent by the congress last night to Governor Lehman, a plea was made to assure Negroes of national defense jobs in New York. The delegates also requested him to act upon the pigeon-holed report of his Temporary Commission on the Condition of the Colored Urban Population.

Telegrams were also sent to Sidney Hillman, representative for labor on the National Defense Advisory Commission, and to the workers on strike at the Downey plant of Vultee Aircraft, Inc., in Los Angeles. The message to Mr. Hillman asked him to use his influence so that "one-ninth of the people should get one-ninth of defense jobs." The one to the strikers was a message of support, on the basis of aircraft industries not hiring Negro workers.

NEGROES WARNED ON U.S. JOINING WAR

New York Times

Hope Stevens Tells Congress Here Such a Step Would Be Blow to Race's Progress

New York N.Y.

HE FEARS A DICTATORSHIP

Attacks Britain for Keeping Africans in Subjugation and Allowing Ethiopia's Fall

NOV 17 1940

Danger of the United States joining the war as an ally of Britain is the greatest threat to the progress of American Negroes today, said Hope Stevens, president of the Manhattan Council of the National Negro Congress, at the opening session of the New York State conference of the congress yesterday in the Park Palace, 5 West 110th Street.

Speaking before 300 delegates, representing labor unions, civic and church organizations and political groups throughout the State, he said propaganda now current was trying to make Americans think our active participation with England was inevitable, but that all Americans should stand for peace.

"In peace," he said, "the American people will advance the struggle for a democracy in which segregation and discrimination will and must be discarded as extravagant

Group Asks Court Job For Negro

The Plaindealer

Kansas City, Kan.

NOV 22 1940

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The National Negro Council asked today that the next Supreme Court vacancy be filled by a Negro and that President Roosevelt appoint a Negro as one of his six White House secretaries.

The proposals were made in a resolution adopted at a convention of the council. The convention was called by the United Government Employees, Inc., leaders of African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the National Baptist Convention, Inc.

Ex-Negro Congress Official Quits, Blames Red, CIO Domination

BY W. B. RAGSDALE

WASHINGTON—The trend of the National Negro Congress toward what he termed "domination by the communists and the CIO" has driven A. Philip Randolph, a former president of the organization, out of its council.

Randolph says, in material turned over to Representative Mitchell (D. Ill.), the only Negro member of Congress, that because of these influences he refused to stand for re-election.

John L. Lewis, head of the CIO, was a prominent speaker at the recent Washington meeting of the organization, and Randolph says the CIO contributed funds to the Congress. He adds that an executive committee meeting of the Congress was informed "that the communist party contributes $100 a month to the Congress."

Soviet Russia was pictured to the congress as a land without poverty or race prejudice, Randolph says, "but the fact is there are no Negroes in Soviet Russia that would occasion any manifestation of race prejudice."

"I quit the congress because I was opposed to linking it up with labor's non-partisan league, the political mouthpiece of CIO, since this was a departure from the original minimum program upon which there could be general agreement and a sound basis for rallying the Negro masses," he wrote.

"I quit the congress because I saw that the communists were firmly in the saddle and the delegates were not subject to the influence of facts and reason. Their minds were already made up when they came there by communist manipulations, caucuses and propaganda. Nothing could shake them.

"The Negro people must beware of all subtle forms of communist propaganda poison to save themselves from destruction. It seems to be beyond the realm of debate that the Negro people cannot afford to add to the handicap of being black, the handicap of being "red."

Negro Congress To Press Fight For Negro Youth

Brooklyn Council to Carry Case of John Williams To Public After Rebuff From District Attorney

Because of the fact that the Brooklyn Council of the Negro National Congress has sent several letters and telegrams to District Attorney William F. O'Dwyer asking for an interview on the John Williams' case, and further that the Congress has not received the courtesy of a reply over a period of two weeks, the Congress decided to take this case to the citizenry of Brooklyn.

A mass rally was held under the auspices of the Congress at Brown Memorial Church on Friday evening, May 17, 1940.

The topic of the meetings was the steps to be taken to free John Williams, the Negro boy who has spent two years in jail on a framed-up charge of rape.

The keynote speech was made by the chairman of the Civil Liberties Aid and Grievance Committee of the Negro National Congress, Mr. Frank Griffin. Mr. Griffin brought to the crowded auditorium all aspects of the case from the time of John Williams' arrest up to the present when the Appellate Court has for the second time handed down an opinion setting aside his conviction as "against the weight of credible evidence."

URGE NEGRO, WHITE ACTION

Mrs. Margaret Brown, treasurer of the Brooklyn Council of the Negro National Congress, also chairman of the Committee for the Election of a Negro Magistrate to Brooklyn, made a very stirring appeal to the Negroes and progressive white people to unite in the fight for this young man's freedom. Mrs. Brown pointed out how the attitude of the judges on the bench would be greatly altered if a Negro Magistrate were also one of them.

CITE ANOTHER CASE

Mr. Joel of the "Cornelius Ruffin Defense Committee" told of the very recent case of the twenty-year-old boy, Cornelius Ruffin, who was hit over the head with a pitch fork by his employer's son because he did not work fast enough. The employer's son, Alfred Mazollo, put in a counter-complaint against Cornelius charging that he hit Cornelius in self-defense when the latter attacked him with a knife. The counter-complaint was thrown out due to insufficient evidence. This case is now due to come up in Special Session.

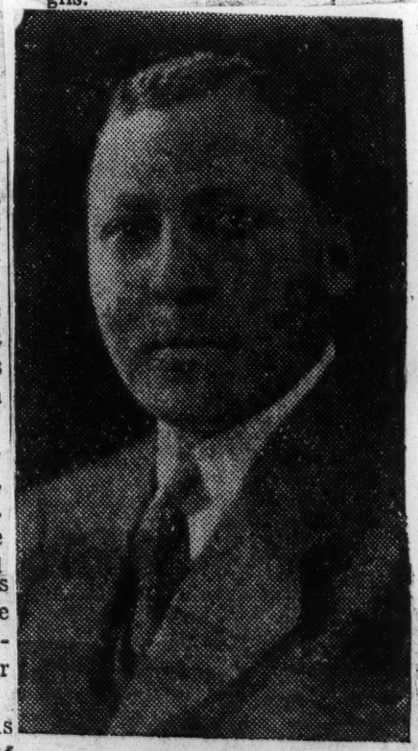
The program of the National Negro Congress, nationally and locally, was outlined by Mrs. Dorothy K. Funn, executive chairman of the Brooklyn Council. Mrs. Funn urged the signing of the telegram blanks which were circulated among the audience. These telegrams were addressed to District Attorney O'Dwyer stating:

"Since the Appellate Division has twice reversed the conviction of John Williams, we urgently request your office to immediately move for freedom of this innocent man."

Twenty such telegrams with five names on each were sent from the meeting. Personal letters were also requested.

Reverend George W. Thomas pastor of the Brown Memorial Church, pledged his financial and active support in the work of the Brooklyn Council, National Negro Congress, in the fight for justice for the Negro people of Brooklyn. Reverend Thomas outlined several cases of violation of the civil liberties and injustice to Negro people. He also brought out clearly the fact that in these days of war hysteria the Negroes' place is in the forefront of the fight for peace, jobs and preservation of civil liberties. A hearty welcome and an invitation to return at any time was extended by Rev. Thomas.

Following an appeal for the names and addresses of all interested persons in the work of the Brooklyn Council of the Negro National Council, in order that they might become active members and participate on the many committees formed the meeting came to a close. Everyone left with a greater determination to cooperate with the Council in its many plans and campaigns.



MAX YERGAN

Boston Negro Congress to Honor Yergan

Prominent Church, Civic, Union Leaders, to Attend Testimonial

BOSTON, May 19.—The Boston Council of the National Negro Congress will hold a testimonial dinner for Dr. Max Yergan, national president, on Wednesday, May 22 at 6 P.M. at Estelles Restaurant, 894 Tremont St., Boston.

Prominent leaders of trade unions, church and civic organizations are expected it was announced. Dr. Yergan is well known in Boston as an authority on African affairs and an outstanding progressive leader. Dr. Yergan will also address a mass meeting the same evening at the Columbus Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church, at Northampton St., on problems of jobs for Negro youth and a program to keep Negro people out of war.

Attorney J. S. R. Bourne, Boston council president, will preside. A local program including a campaign for jobs in public utilities for Negroes will be outlined by Dr. R. A. Simmons, national vice president of the Congress from Boston. A musical program has been arranged. Admission is free.

Local Negro Congress Will Honor Dr. Yergan At Testimonial Dinner

The Brooklyn Council of The National Negro Congress will tender a Testimonial Dinner to Dr. Max Yergan in honor of his recent election as National President of the body. The affair will be held at the Elks Auditorium in Brooklyn, June 12th.

On the Committee of Arrangements are Mrs. Margaret Brown, and Messrs. Arthur L. Funn, Ewart Guinier and George Holbert.

Yergan Demands U.S. Stay Out of the War

700 in Boston Hear Noted Negro Historian Warn of Danger to Civil Rights; Ask Passage of Anti-Lynch Bill

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BOSTON, Mass., May 23.—More than 700 Negro and white citizens packed the Amezion Church, the largest colored church in Boston, last night and heard Dr. Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress warn that the Negro people have nothing to gain from either side of the war.

The famous Negro historian told the crowd, who came to the meeting through a heavy downpour of rain, that the chief problem confronting the people today was to protect jobs, civil liberties and to fight for peace.

He urged the Negroes to act in the closest unity with labor and progressive white people to achieve these ends. He assailed the subjugation of African people by British imperialism and described his personal experiences as a witness of oppression of Negroes in Africa.

WARNS OF REPRESSION

Warning against an attempt of American reactionaries to introduce repressive government here while involving American people in war, Dr. Yergan urged the Negro people to organize with the peace forces. He challenged as betrayers of the Negro people those who raised the "red scare" at the recent meeting of the Negro Congress in Washington.

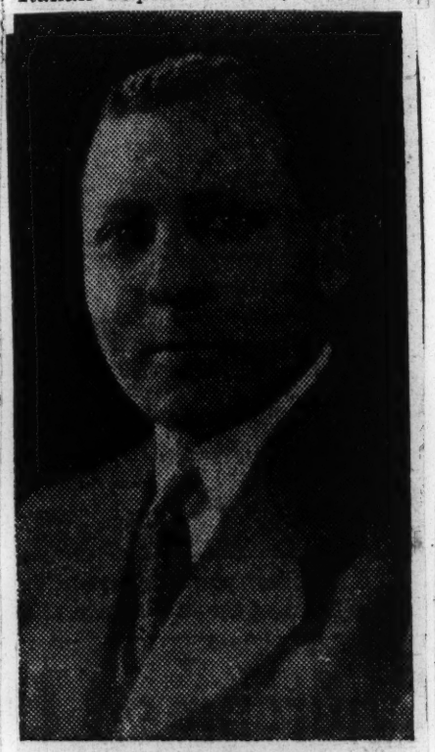
Others who addressed the gathering were Dr. R. A. Simmons, local vice-president of the National Negro Congress; Charles Wilson, of the American Youth Congress, and Clive Knowles, of Labor's Non-Partisan League.

J. S. R. Bourne, local attorney, was chairman of the meeting. An invocation was delivered by the Reverend Perry and a benediction by the Reverend Laviscount. There was also a musical program offered by Mr. Gadstansil.

A resolution demanding passage of the Anti-Lynch Bill was adopted and a large number of peace ballots were signed by those who attended.

Earlier in the evening 75 prominent community leaders attended a testimonial banquet to Dr. Yergan.

Among those who greeted the Negro leader were Attorney Bullock, of the State Board of Correction; Mr. Pascal, of the Equal Rights League; Mr. Smith, of the Urban League; the Rev. DeLucca of the Italian Baptist Church; Otis Hood,



MAX YERGAN

Communist candidate for Governor, and leaders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colorded People and representatives from the YWCA and unions, including furniture workers, red caps, dining car waiters, teachers, maritime workers, office and professional workers.

N.N.C. To Decide Which Party It Will Support

Chicago Defender 8-31-40

Chicago, Ill.

The place of the Race in the national defense program, the elimination of poll taxes, what party to support in the national elections are main issues to be dealt with at the meeting of the national executive committee of the National Negro Congress here Saturday, August 31.

Max Yergan

This will be the first meeting of the executive committee since the election of Dr. Max Yergan, Spingarn medalist, as president.

Last spring the congress and Labor's Non-Partisan League, of which John L. Lewis is national president, signed a mutual aid pact in which the C.I.O. agreed to support all legislation of interest to Race members in return for congress support of legislation of interest to labor.

Because of this agreement national labor and political circles will watch the deliberations of the board for some indication of the strength of this alliance between the C.I.O. and the National Negro Congress and indirectly for some indication of whether John L. Lewis will support Roosevelt or Willkie in the November elections.

Observers are of the opinion that the almost certain demand of the board that the C.I.O. actively support the demand of Race members for the right to vote in the South will greatly influence the trend of the Negro vote.

Dr. Max Yergan, who is also director of the International Committee on African Affairs, lectured in Negro history, College of the City of New York, and who spent 16 years in Africa and India as director of Y.M.C.A. work, succeeds A. Philip Randolph as president.

Negroes Ask Next Place On U. S. Supreme Court

NOV 18 1940

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—(AP)—The National Negro Council asked today that the next Supreme Court vacany be filled by a negro and that President Roosevelt appoint a negro as one of his six White House secretaries.

The proposals were made in a resolution adopted at a convention of the council. The convention was called by the United Government Employes, Inc., leaders of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the National Baptist Convention, Inc.

The resolution also endorsed "all aid" to Britain, urged that all negro army reserve officers be called to active duty and placed in command of the four negro regiments of the regular army, and proposed appointment of a negro civilian aide to the secretary of the navy.

Youth Council Prepares Opening Public Concert

Amsterdam News

Hartford, N. J. NOV 16 1940

Brooklyn Christian Council will present its first public concert at the People's Institutional Church, Greene and Tompkins Avenues, Sunday afternoon, December 8, at 4 p. m. This is the fifth year that the group has endeavored to help the churches and other charitable groups with programmes of this nature.

This affair preceeds the Winter Conference which takes place in January, at which time the young Brooklyn people from all the churches will discuuss topics confronting youth. The subject at that time will be "New Frontiers for Youth."

Miss Vivien Deas, president of the Brooklyn Christian Youth Council, will be assisted by Darrell Shaver and Elsee Mascoll in the presentation of Miss Lillian Luckey in the forthcoming concert.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION- 1940

NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

‘tion Seen Menace Congress Future

By ORRIN C. EVANS
Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, April — The National Negro Congress, undoubtedly one of the most potentially effective Negro organizations ever welded together in America, today stands at the crossroads.

Its future, according to experienced and unbiased observers, is largely dependent upon whether or not it divorces itself from what appears to be Communist domination.

A Philip Randolph, president of the Congress since its inception in 1936, sounded a strident note of warning against a continued locked-arms policy with the Communist party on the final night of the three-day session when he refused to consider nomination for another term as the president of the Congress.

"I am compelled to warn the delegates against developing any tieups with any political organizations," he said. And then he cited contributions the Congress had accepted from the C. I. O. and the Communist party, characterizing acceptance of such gratuities as "not a healthy condition."

His expression of fear of the continuance of a policy that encouraged alliances with Communism followed by a day an impassioned plea made by John P. Davis, national executive secretary of the Congress, for support of the Soviet Union on the part of the Congress.

"One of the chief diversions being practiced by the makers of war, by American reactionaries, by reactionaries everywhere is the attempt to create diversion by organizing and inciting a war against the Soviet Union," Davis said.

Genuine Equal Rights

"I have visited the Soviet Union I know of their ideals and aspirations. I have witnessed the real and genuine equal rights and freedom of its many minority peoples.

"I know of their deep friendship and aid to all oppressed peoples. On that basis I firmly believe that the American Negro people will refuse to follow American imperialism in an attack upon the Soviet Union, will refuse to fall victims to anti-Soviet adventures, will refuse to join American or world imperialism in any attack upon the Soviet people," Davis said.

The convention, held in the sacious auditorium of the Department of Labor Building, on Constitution avenue, was packed throughout the sessions with either members of the Communist party or Communist sympathizers. That is to say, obviously, the greater majority of the delegates in attendance leaned decidedly in the direction of the Soviet Union.

It was felt that this tendency was primarily responsible for the refusal of Randolph, also president of the Brotherhood of Pullman Car Porters, to continue as president of the organization.

He so expressed himself in refusing to consider renomination.

He emphatically deplored "departures being made from the original program of the organization", and warned the 1,264 delegates in attendance against accepting donations from organizations that were not distinctly Negro bodies.

Following Randolph's announcement of declination, Dr. Max Yergan, a national vice president and president of the New York Council, was elected to the presidency, without opposition.

In accepting the presidency, Yergan indicated that his policy would be just the opposite to the position taken by Randolph in the matter of accepting aid outside the Negro group.

"Relying on our strength, and with our allies we shall march forward," he said, repeating it for emphasis.

Philadelphia Recognized

Philadelphia received recognition when Dr. Charles A. Lewis, Broad and Lombard streets, president of the Philadelphia Council, was elected to a national vice presidency. Two other Philadelphians, Miss Goldie Ervin, a member of the school system, and William C. Jason, a postal employee, were elevated to membership on the national executive board.

Pennsylvania was represented at the Congress by a delegation of 131 members. New York, with 571 delegates, and the District of Columbia, with a delegation of 173 were the only units that outstripped the Pennsylvania delegation numerically.

One of the many highlights of the sessions was the appeal for support made on the opening night of the Congress by John L. Lewis, president of the C. I. O.

He made a definite bid for Negro support, "in common cause with labor, that we may seek out together those political means and instruments by which the common welfare may be promoted."

"I am one American who believes in equality of opportunity for the American Negro," he said. "Furthermore, I say to those who deny the position of equality of opportunity to the Negro that they do so at their political peril."

The iniquities of the poll tax and the failure of Congress to pass an anti-lynching bill were attacked by Lewis, as he pledged the support of the CIO to the Negro in a fight to have the poll tax invalidated and anti-lynching legislation passed.

Activities of the Dies Committee were denounced by Randolph, who abelled the Dies Committee forages as being "not accidental".

"All minority groups, such as Negroes, foreigners, trade unions, Jews and Catholics are victims of this unreasoning hysteria," Randolph said.

Adoption of the resolutions at the final sessio nof the Congress precipitated heated debate, most spirited of which was the objection on the part of Edgar G. Brown, president of the United Government Employes, to what he interpreted as criticism of President Roosevelt and the national Administration.

This resolution "sharply condemned" the Administration "for the steps it has taken and the partiality already shown" in relation to "American involvement in the imperialist war."

Brown leaped to the rostrum and, through an amplification system, pleaded for the defeat of the resolution.

"I am not in sympathy with any reflection on President Roosevelt and his policies," he said.

The resolution further, by implication, scored lack of adequate consideration for the unemployed.

"Any Negro who would sit idly by and approve any resolution that Roosevelt has abandoned the unemployed is a traitor. We want to be the voice of the Negro people, and not that of white Communists in this audience," Brown said.

John P. Davis, national executive secretary, defended the resolution claiming knowledge of appropriations for WPA that had been diverted to armaments for war. The resolution was finally passed by an overwhelming vote.

Rev. Owen Whitfield, vice president of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packers and Allied Workers of America, who became nationally prominent following the roadside demonstration of sharecroppers in Missouri in 1939 criticized the Negro ministery for failure to properly "assume the role of leadership for the masses of Negroes."

Earl B. Dickerson, Negro alderman of Chicago, urged members of the National Negro Congress to consider decisions of the United States Supreme Court more carefully.

"Negro America has not challenged sufficiently the decisions of this Court," Dickerson said. "If the 14th amendment can be invoked to protect the vested interests why can it not be invoked to protect the Negro, its original purpose?"

An appeal to the American people for support of Negro women in their "fight for a better status for culture and economic freedom was broadcast over the coast-to-coast network of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Saturday morning by Mrs. Fay E. Allen, Negro member of the Board of Education of Los Angeles.

Other officers elected on Sunday night were: John P. Davis, national executive secretary; U. Simpson Tate, Washington, treasurer; Julius Bostic, assistant treasurer.

Vice presidents elected were: Henry Johnson, Chicago; W. H. Jernagin, Washington; Mrs. Fay Allen, Los Angeles; Rev. Owen Whitfield, Kirkwood, Mo.; Dr. Charles A. Lewis, Philadelphia; and Dr. Robert A. Simmons, Boston.

The gavel which opened the sessions of the Congress was made by students in Hampton Institute from a piece of wood taken from the last slave ship to touch American shores.

On the statistical side, there were 388 Negro and 370 white delegates in attendance at the Congress, thirty-one per cent of whom were under 25 years of age. Thirteen different types of organizations were represented, and a total of 28 states and the District of Columbia had representation at the sessions. Trade unions led in number of delegates at the Congress. There were 459 delegates who represented trade unions. Civic organizations followed in third place, with 248 delegates representing these organizations. Youth organizations, with 196 delegates, followed in third place.

Illinois Negro Conference to Meet Nov. 9, 10

Daily Worker
New York

OCT 28 1940

National Defense and Negro People to Be Chief Topic

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, Oct. 27.—"National Defense and the Negro people" will receive broad and close scrutiny when the Illinois Conference of the National Negro Congress opens on Nov. 9th and 10th, according to the responses coming in from organizations in and out of Chicago to the call for the Conference.

In addition, every phase of life in relation to national defense will receive the most weighted and careful attention since practically every outstanding leader in the different fields of social and community life will participate in the deliberations of the Conference.

Leading up to the Conference will be radio broadcasts dealing with special phases of the life of the Negro people in the State and the nation, showing the need and importance of unifying movements like the Illinois Confreence.

Highlights of the week was the request of a large number of workers in various industries for a special panel on Labor, Industry and the Trade Union Movement in relation to the National Defense Program.

Mr. Arthur Sewell, Chairman of the Conference arrangements, called upon all organizations to register early and in advance of the opening of the Conference on Sat. Nov. 9th, in order for the committee to make the best possible arrangements for the convenience of the delegates.

YERGAN, FORMER 'Y' SECRETARY, VOTED LEADER OF GROUP

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—A. Philip Randolph and the National Negroes congress came to the parting the ways here Sunday night, when in the final meeting of the body, Mr. Randloph clearly and concisely stated his difference of opinion with the trends indicated in the meeting and dispassionately refused to run for re-election to the post he had held continuously for the past three years.

Mr. Randolph's speech was, as usual, classical in its logic and delivery.

"It was reluctantly that I consented to serve as president of this organization when it was first organized in Chicago, but I sent a wire notifying the organization that I was not in a position to serve. However, I accepted the presidency when elected. At the second congress in Philadelphia, I declared it was impossible for me to continue as president of the congress, as I was not in the best of health and could not accept the responsibility for the policies of such a national organization. However, I agreed to serve again.

"I have come to the point, so far as I can see, when a departure has been made from the original program. Policies have been adopted to which I agree, and some have been adopted to which I am opposed. I would not be true to myself and because I am opposed to certain of the policies, it is impossible for me to continue as president of the congress.

"Rumors of personal differences between John P. Davis and myself which have been circulated are absolutely untrue. I am very fond of John P. Davis and consider him capable and an able person. Now we disagree on certain policies. It is necessary that I agree on an alliance with the labor nonpartisan league.

GIVES REASONS

"I am not in agreement with tieing the National Negro congress too closely with the CIO, and I am not in agreement with tieing the National Negro congress with the AF of L.

"The reason is plain: When an organization is tied up, it loses in the nature of things its mass character. And it is utterly impossible to rally the mass of people in such manner.

"I am sorry the situation developed. I am compelled to warn the delegates of the congress against delivering a tie-up with any political organization and there has been some trend to this.

"We have received large donations from the CIO organizations and the Communist party. This is not a healthy condition. The National Negro congress must depend upon resources supplied by Negro people alone. The ground for my belief is that where you get your money, you get your ideas and control.

REFERS TO RUSSIA

"We disagree on the question of the Soviet Union. I oppose the National Negro congress indicating in any way any sympathy for the Soviet Union. There have been some sentiments that in the event there is a war between Russia and the United States, the Negroes will not fight in a war against Russia.

"We disagree on the question of policy. I have come to the conclusion reluctantly, I can no longer serve in the capacity as president of the congress, but I have no personal differences whatsoever with John P. Davis. On occasions, I have stated my position on questions whether you accept them or not."

Silence filled the vast auditorium as the magnificent voice was hushed. Then, there were ohs and ahs, and a few scattering bits of applause from those who had admired the courageous statement from the man who had headed the organization through troublous formative years.

Quietly, Mr. Randolph then turned and asked for the report of the nominating committee. The name of Max Yergan, former Y. M. C. A. secretary for the work in South Africa, was presented, and the body elected him by acclamation.

HANDS OVER GAVEL

Mr. Randolph turned the gavel over to Mr. Yergan with becoming dignify and then sat to watch the proceedings as the crowd went haywire after Yergan's speech of acceptance.

Named as vice presidents were Messrs. Henry Johnson, Arthur Simmons, Rev. W. H. Jernagin, Rev. Owen Whitfield, Mrs. Fay Allen and Dr. C. H. Lewis. John P. Davis was continued as executive secretary and U S. Tate as treasurer.

Earlier in the evening, William Patterson, chairman of the resolutions committee, had submitted his report in which it was stated that 95 resolutions had been heard by the committee and 73 accepted. Among them was the debated resolution on unity with Labor's Nonpartisan league.

From the outset when the resolution was read to the body, it was evident that Randolph opposed it and he spoke so openly. But the tenor of the entire body was against him and after a brief flurry of debate it was unanimously adopted, thereby establishing what is believed to be a precedent in the organization, which had been previously non-committal to any political group.

Observers believed that this was the clincher which brought Mr. Randolph's statement.

MUTTERINGS HEARD

Throughout the auditorium, there were mutterings by many who had followed the organization and felt that something worth while had been accomplished. However, they now turned and declared the Communistic party was "kidnaping" the National Negro congress. Few had any other comment, especially those who were keen students of political science.

During the discussion on resolutions, Edgar Brown was summarily disposed of by Patterson, who said in reply to a question on a resolution, "You should know, you were present when the resolution committee met."

Mr. Brown had asked that a resolution be adopted which he submitted that $1,500 be the minimum wages level for federal employes, and also sought to get information of his proposal that the resolution committee adopt a ruling of the abolition of photographs in the civil service and the forcing of appointing officials to select the person with the highest rating when sent out on a job.

Boos and hisses from the delegates were Mr. Brown's reward, although no action had been taken on his resolutions. In one instance, it was reported that one of the resolutions came in too late.

Thoroughly tired, the 3,000 delegates, including many youths from all parts of the country, were happy to hear the new president, Max Yergan, sound the gavel ending the session and sending the third congress into the world under new leadership.

WILL BE ACTIVE

In the audience were many who had watched the congress from its inception and had hoped to see it continue under the leadership that had brought it thus far.

That there had been some difference of opinion was expressed earlier in the meeting when on opening night Randolph, in a masterful speech, had set forth his beliefs and blasted any idea that the Negro could expect hope from the Soviet Union and Communists. However, on the second day of the congress, John P. Davis set forth his ideas which were a bit opposed to what Randolph had declared and the whisperings began as to the disagreement.

Although no open break has occurred between Randolph and Davis, and Randolph has promised to lend his support to the movement, there are expressions of doubt prevalent that Randolph wil continue to be active.

Randolph, of New York, who refused to stand for reelection as a result.

Labor's Non-Partisan League generally is considered the political arm of the CIO. Lewis heads both organizations.

Earlier, Lewis won a promise of political cooperation with the league from the American Youth Congress

In accepting Lewis' bid to political activity, the Negro congress declared that the Negro worker long had awaited "the extended hand of organized labor."

With only scattered "noes," it adopted, too, a resolution accusing the Roosevelt administration of abandoning a policy of "welfare of the people" in favor of "mobiliza tion of America's resources of war.

Randolph declared that the congress had accepted contributions from the CIO and Communist party, and added, "Wherever you get your money, you get your ideas and control." Max Yergan, of New York, succeeded Randolph as president

Lewis Wins Backing Of Negro Congress Despite Head's Protest

WASHINGTON — (AP) — John L. Lewis, seeking to make Labor's Non-Partisan League a factor in the 1940 campaign, added the National Negro Congress today to its list of supporters.

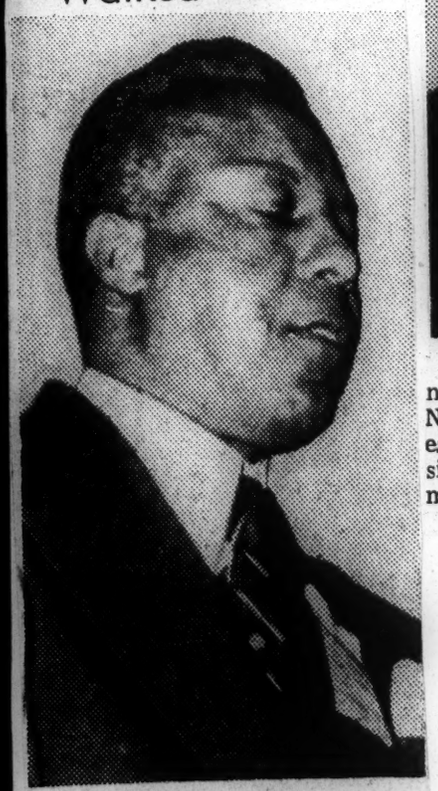
The Negro organization accepted Lewis' invitation last night over the protest of its president, A. Philip

National Officers of Congress

Above are shown national officers who were elected at the third National Negro Congress meet which was held in Washington last week.

Those in the picture, from left to right, are: Julius Bosnick, financial secretary; Dr. Robert A. Simmons, vice-president; Mrs. Fay Allen, vice-president; the Rev. W. H. Jernagin, vice president; John P. Davis, secretary; Max Yergan, president; U. Simpson Tate, treasurer; the Rev. dent; Dr. Charles A. Lewis, vice-president, and Henry Johnon, vice-president.

Walked Out . . .



A. PHILIP RANDOLPH, president of the National Negro Congress is shown as he addressed the Congress on Friday evening. In his address he attacked the "hysteria of the Dies Committee."

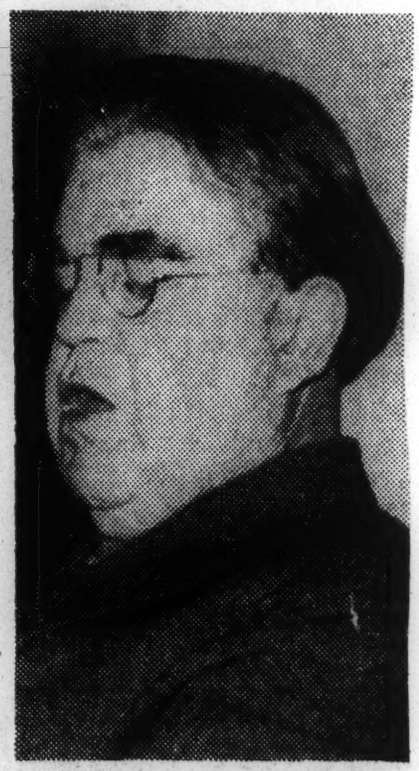
. . . Walked In

MAX YERGIN, newly elected president of the National Negro Congress addresses the delegates at the final session of the NNC at the Department of Labor Auditorium in D.C. on Sunday evening.

Presents Plaque

Plaque which was presented to John L. Lewis by members of the National Negro Congress for his "service to colored people," is being held by Tom Starks of Bellaire, Ohio. Beside him is Milford Jackson of Pittsburgh. Both are members of the CIO, and delegates to the congress.

Join Me . . .



Says President John L. Lewis of the CIO at the opening session of the National Negro Congress in Washington, D.C., on Friday evening. Mr. Lewis was the guest speaker and invited the congress to join Labor's Non-Partisan League, CIO political group. The bid was accepted.

Rep. Mitchell Blasts National Negro Congress

Calls CIO Head Dangerous Leader, Would-Be Dictator

WASHINGTON

The National Negro Congress came in for a bitter attack by Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell on the floor of Congress, Wednesday, when, after gaining the floor by unanimous consent of the body, the Illinois Representative declared, in part:

"I wish to go on record as condemning the activities of the so-called National Negro Congress as expressed in a resolution which I understand was passed by the organization while in session here, last week, which purported to set forth the statement that should this country become involved in war with Russia we would refuse to fight on the side of our government.

"This I brand as a deliberate misstatement of fact. Colored people have always been loyal to this government.

Unjustly Treated, but Loyal

"In this time of unrest there might be a traitor found here and there, but I wish to assure this Congress, and the nation at large, that the Negro is a lover of this country—it is his home; he knows no other.

"And, while this country might withhold from him, and does withhold from him, many of the privileges of American citizens, the well-thinking colored person does not wish to and will not raise his hand against this government, it matters not with whom we may be engaged in war."

Calls Lewis Would-Be Dictator

Lashing out at John L. Lewis, Congressman Mitchell expressed his disapproval of Lewis's bid to the NNC and declared that in his opinion, "Lewis is the most dangerous outstanding leader in America today," and charged him with a desire to "change the form of our government."

"My final word is this," the Congressman declared:

"The colored people stand loyally behind the American flag and will give his blood and his life to protect it against any foe whether German, English, French, Russian or what-not. We are Americans, all of us," which statement was greeted by a rousing round of applause from the body.

Party Bid Split N.N.C.

Randolph Quits When Body Votes for CIO

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON

A. Philip Randolph, president of the National Negro Congress since its organization in 1936, declined renomination following the body's acceptance of the bid of John L. Lewis to affiliate with Labor's Non-Partisan League, CIO political subsidiary, and Max Yergan was chosen by acclamation to succeed him.

In stepping down from the leadership of the organization, Mr. Randolph said:

"I am not in agreement with tying the National Negro Congress too closely with the CIO and I am not in agreement with tying the National Negro Congress with the A.F. of L.

Can't Rally Masses

"The reason is plain: When an organization is tied up, it loses in the nature of things its mass character. And it is utterly impossible to rally the mass of people in such manner.

"I am sorry the situation developed. I am compelled to warn the delegates of the congress against delivering a tie-up with any political organization and there has been some trend toward this.

"We have received large donations from the CIO organizations and the Communist party. This is not a healthy condition.

Mr. Randolph said the congress held last Sunday in Washington "was deliberately packed with Communists and C. I. O. members who were either Communists or sympathizers with Communists."

He added that it was a "well-known fact" that most of the contributions to the congress came from C. I. O. unions, adding that John P. Davis of Washington, the secretary, had told an executive committee meeting in New York "that the Communist party contributed $100 a month to the congress."

"Is this the reason why the congress refuses to attempt to make it plain to the American people that it is not a Communist front?" he asked.

NEGRO CONGRESS ACCUSED

Its Former Head Says Reds Had Control Before Recent Session

Charges that Communists were "firmly in the saddle" and had seized control of the recent third National Negro Congress before its sessions began were made yesterday by A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, A. F. of L., who a week ago declined re-election as head of the Negro congress.

OPEN NEGRO CONGRESS SESSIONS TODAY; ROLE IN DEFENSE BIG TOPIC

The Illinois conference of the National Negro congress will open at 12:30 p. m. today for a two day meeting. The chief subject for discussion will be the Negro's part in national defense. Individuals and organizations representative of the church, labor and civic groups are expected to attend.

The first session will be held in the Wabash avenue Y. M. C. A. and the discussions will cover the Negro in defense industry, housing, trade unionism, vocational training, education, recreation, and community adjustment. Discrimination against the Negro on the nation's armed forces also will be given attention.

Political trends and expression among Negroes will be covered at a symposium at 8:30 p. m. in the Metropolitan Community church, 41st street and South Park way. The conference will close with a mass meeting at 3 p. m. tomorrow in the Greater Bethezda Baptist church, 53d street and Michigan avenue.

Max Yergan Urges Second Party for Race

NEW YORK CITY.—(ANP)— A call to Negroes to take leadership in the formation of a second major political party, "because the recent election proved there is now only one major party in the United States," was made Tuesday by Dr. Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress, to 300 delegates at the closing session of the New York conference of the congress.

Dr. Yergan attacked both the Republicans and Democrats because neither party, he said offered anything constructive to domestic problems. Particularly, he said neither promised to eliminate the major problems before Negroes today—unemployment, bad housing, poll taxes in the South, jim crowism and discrimination in national defense industries.

A delegation was appointed to go before Governor Lehman with a request that all available money be spent for low rent housing for Negroes. The conference resolved also to send a protest to President Roosevelt against jim crowism in the armed forces of the United States.

Negro Congress Wins Rights In Gov't Camp in Capital

Daily Worker 3-27-40

Abolishes Long-Standing Ban on Negro Tourists; To Press for Full Rights on All Federal Property

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 26.—A signal victory for Negro rights was registered by the National Negro Congress here this week when Congress officials announced that a long standing rule of the federal government prohibiting Negro tourists from securing accommodations at the government controlled Washington Tourist Camp had been abolished.

John P. Davis, National Secretary of the National Negro Congress made this announcement after a conference last Saturday with First Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ebert K. Burlew.

The Washington Tourist Camp is operated by the Welfare and Recreational Association under a concession from the federal government. It is a modern camp with facilities for 500 tourists. For years —although supported by federal funds—officials of the federal government have refused to allow Negro tourists use of the camp.

Davis pointed out that the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress made an exhaustive study of federal recreational facilities from which Negroes were barred It followed this up with repeated protests to the National Park Service of the Interior Department. Recently in a letter to the Secretary of Interior, Congress officials threatened legal action if an immediate change was not made.. The result was an executive order of Secretary Ickes opening the camp to all tourists regardless of race on the basis of first come first served.

CONTINUE FIGHT

"We are glad to point out" said the Congress Secretary, "that Negro tourists who will be coming to the Nation's capital this summer will have the same privileges as other American citizens to the full use of all facilities at this government-operated camp. There will be no discrimination and no segregation. The Congress takes this opportunity to urge Negro citizens planning to come to Washington to make full use of the camp privileges and report any instances of discourtesy which may arise to officials of the Congress."

It was also announced that a hundred reservations for Negro delegates to the Third Negro Congress to be held April 26-28 have been made at the camp.

"The fight of the National Negro Congress against discriminations practiced upon Negroes in various national parks under federal supervision will not stop with the victory we have won in this case," declared Davis.

"There are scores of camps restaurants and other recreational facilities on federal property from which no federal officer has any constitutional right to bar Negro applicants. We have said to Mr. Burlew that the Congress cannot be satisfied with a victory in this case alone. He has given assurance that a correction of abuses of Negro citizenship rights in public parks is being worked out. We intend to hold the Department of Interior strictly accountable for the promises they have made to us. Negro citizens throughout the country who have occasion to use facilities under the supervision of the National Park Service should report to us any instances of discrimination against them. Upon such reports we will take instant action."

CIO Cannery Union Endorses Negro Congress

Daily Worker

San Francisco Council Of Congress on Radio Weekly

3-29-40

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America last week through its national executive board unanimously endorsed the Third National Negro Congress to be held in Washington, April 26-28, it was announced this week.

New York

This union is the eighth largest union in the Congress of Industrial Organizations. More than a third of its members are Negro and many of its officers are Negro.

OAKLAND, Cal., March 28.—The East Bay Council of the National Negro Congress — comprising church, civic, youth and trade union organizations of Oakland, San Francisco and Berkely, California, has maintained a weekly radio broadcast of Negro news for more than 160 consecutive Sunday mornings, it was announced this week. Mrs. Tarea Pittman, outstanding leader of Negro women's clubs of the state, has been the commentator for the Congress. The program, heard by several hundred thousand Negro and white listeners in Northern California, presents weekly a survey of outstanding achievements of Negro people.

40,000 Union Members Endorse Third Nat'l Negro Congress

Northwest Enterprise

3-22-40

NEW YORK — The Joint Board of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers International Alliance and Bartenders League of America, representing 13 local unions with a combined membership of 40,000 food workers, endorsed the Third National Negro Congerss at its sessions here last week. About one-fourth of the members of these unions are Negro. The Congress is to be held in Washington, D. C. April 26-28.

N. N. Congress Dines Randolph

Northwestern Enterprise

WASHINGTON — Leaders from every walk of life in the nation"s capital will attend a National Negro Congress dinner here honoring the national president of the Congress, A. Philip Randolph, on March 14. The dinner is one of the several affairs which Congress officials are planning in preparation of their Third National Negro Congress meeting here on April 26-28.

In addition to President Randolph, scheduled speakers at the dinner include: John P. Davis, national secretary of the Congress; Owen Whitfield, international vice president of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America, and Rev. A. D. Gray, president of the Washington Council of the Congress.

Among those who have made reservations for the dinner and are expected to attend are Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas; Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana; Hon. J. Finley Wilson, national Elk leader; Charles H. Houston of the NAACP legal staff; Geo. Goodman of the Washington Urban League; and Mrs. Julia West Hamilton of the Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

Union officials who will attend include representatives from the National Brotherhood of Bookbinders, the Construction Workers Organizing Committee, the American Newspaper Guild, the International Brotherhood of Red Caps, Local 471 of the Cafeteria Workers Union, Locals 781 and 80 of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, the United Federal Workers of America, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the International Brotherhood of Shoe Workers and Local 188-B of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

Other organizations to be represented include the National Committee to Aid Agricultural Workers, the National Council of Mothers and Babies, the Playground Department of the District of Columbia, the Eastland Gardens, the Southwest and Rock Creek Civic Associations, the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society, the Medico-Chirurgical Society of the District of Colubia, the Plymouth Congregational Church, the Interndenominational Ministers Alliance, the Washington Youth Federation and the Tuesday Evening Club.

Dr. Max Yergan To Speak for Foreign Born

Daily Worker New York N.Y.

Dr. Max Yergan, vice-chairman of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born and president of the National Negro Congress, will preside at the New York City Conference for Protection of Foreign Born, which is to be held at the Hotel Edison Saturday afternoon, it was announced yesterday.

OCT 16 1940

The conference will discuss present attacks on the rights of the foreign born in the United States and the manner in which they threaten to undermine American democracy. A program of action for New York City organizations will also be drawn up at the Conference by the delegates and observers present.

Each New York City organization has been invited to send two delegates or two observers to attend the Conference. Individuals are invited to attend as visitors.

Big Response to Negro Congress

Expect 2,000 Delegates from Every Part of Nation; Numerous Unions to Be Represented; Special Parley Monday

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, April 11.—The Third Negro Congress to be held here April 26-28 promises to be a rich cross-section of Negro life in America according to indications gained from a study of the 100 or more organizations who have already notified the national office here of the elections of delegates to the Congress. Registrations from organizations in far off California and New Mexico have already been sent in. Other states heard from include Arkansas, Alabama, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and Massachusetts.

Youth and college groups registered include the Carver Society of the City College of New York, Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, the Southern Negro Youth Congress, the Council of Young Southerners, and the 4-H clubs of North Carolina.

Church groups include the Mount Olive Baptist Association of New Mexico, the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance and the Religion and Labor Foundation.

NUMEROUS UNIONS

Labor groups who have already indicated that delegates will be sent are the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, AFL, the United Mine Workers of America, the State, County and Municipal Workers, the construction workers, locals of the Amalgmated Clothing Workers, the United Agricultural and Cannery Workers, and many other outstanding unions.

More than 2,000 delegates from every section of the country and from every type of organization are expected to attend the Congress sessions.

TO HOLD SPECIAL CONFERENCE

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, April 11.—Plans have been completed here by the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress to hold a pre-Congress conference on the human needs of the Negro people of the District of Columbia at the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA on April 14. Five hundred representatives of church, civic, women's youth and trade union groups are expected to attend. This conference will be a prelude to the third National Negro Congress to be held here April 26-28, when more than 2,000 delegates from every section of the country will come here.

Important local issues will come before the local conference. These include housing, health, crowding of Negro school buildings, passage of the District of Columbia civil rights bill, and adequate jobs for Washington's large unemployed Negro population.

Among the speakers invited to discuss these subjects are Rep. Jennings Randolph, chairman of the House District of Columbia; T. J. Anderson, assistant director of playgrounds and recreation; Judge William Hastie; Captain Eugene Davidson, administrator of the New Negro Alliance, and numerous other church, civic and labor leaders.

FDR SENDS GREETINGS

WASHINGTON, April 11.—In a letter addressed to A. Philip Randolph, president of the National Negro Congress, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent greetings to the forthcoming third National Negro Congress to be held here in the U. S. Department of Labor Auditorium April 26-28. The letter was released from the offices of John P. Davis, National Secretary of the Congress, at 717 Florida Ave., N.W. The text of the President's letter follows:

"Dear Mr. Randolph:

"It gives me pleasure to send greetings to another great and representative gathering of Negro citizens at the third National Negro Congress. This is a time in the history of the world and in the history of our own nation when the wisdom of the whole people is more than ever needed if common problems are to be solved.

"Because of confusion and unrest it is now more than ever important that the place of a minority group in a democracy not be obscured by ignorance and prejudice. It is important that members of a minority group consider together their special problems in order that these problems may find expression for the benefit of all. It is of even greater importance that the whole people consider with open and sympathetic mind these problems of the minority in order that the processes of democracy may work to bring about their solution. For it is obvious that the political, social and economic well-being of the whole people depends upon the achievement of the well-being for all sections of the population regardless of color, creed or geography.

"Very sincerely yours,
"FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT."

B'klyn Negro Congress Backs Peace Rally Sunday

Delegation to March to Randall's Island Stadium

Recalling the position on peace taken by its third convention in Washington the Brooklyn Council of the National Negro Congress has added its support to the peace rally Sunday at Randall's Island called by the Emergency Peace Mobilization Committee.

"The Negro people," says a call by the Council for its membership to participate in the peace rally, "together with the working people of America must in this critical hour asesrt a program for a real defense of America.

"A program that will keep America at peace, will give the vote to the disfranchised Negroes of the South, will abolish lynching, will give jobs to the Negro people."

In addition to Sunday's rally the council supports a similar rally at the Coney Island Velodrome, Aug. 14, and National Peace Mobilization in Chicago Labor Day week-end.

MARCH TO STADIUM

Several colorful delegations will march to Randall's Island Stadium Sunday afternoon to attend the Emergency Peace Mobilization Committee rally.

Arrangements have been made with the Police Department to clear traffic lanes for the paraders. Special sections have been reserved inside the stadium so that the delegations may take their place in the huge audience of more than 40,000 people who are expected to attend.

Among the organizations which will parade are the Washington Heights Youth Committee, which will march from W. 180th St. At 135th St. they will be joined by a thousand delegates from the Harlem Youth Council and the two groups will march to the stadium together. One hundred of the prettiest members of the American Youth Congress clad in white will arrive at the stadium in a body and a large group from Local 65 of the United Wholesale and Retail Employes are also expected to parade.

Congressman Vito Marcantonio will be the main speaker at the rally and the program also includes Harry Van Arsdale of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Jean Horle of the American Youth Congress, John P. Davis of the National Youth Congress.

A mass pageant entitled, "The People March On," will employ 500 actors, 20 national groups in costume and 5 musical ensembles which will present music by Earl Robinson, composer of the famous Ballad for Americans.

Negro Congress Here Backs Peace Mobilization

The Manhattan Council of the National Negro Congress announced yesterday plans for sending a large delegation from Harlem to the Chicago Peace Mobilization scheduled for Aug. 31 to Sept. 2.

An open air mass meeting to inform the public about the significance of the Chicago meeting will be held 8 P.M. tonight at 125 St. and Seventh Ave. A special appeal to Negro women of Harlem has been sent out by the Congress urging them to make every effort to insure a large representation of Negro women at the Chicago rally.

Tag days to raise funds to send the Harlem delegation to Chicago have been set for Aug. 21, 22 and 23, and a special meeting of the Council has been scheduled for tomorrow night at the office of the Congress, 139-141 W. 125 St., where plans will be laid for launching a mass peace petition campaign throughout Harlem.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS- 1940

NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

Text of Pact Between Labor Non-Partisan League and Negro Congress

WASHINGTON, May 13.—Issuance of the text of a proposed agreement between Labor's Non-Partisan League and the National Negro Congress by the national headquarters of the League here shows a formula for proposed joint action between the two organizations.

The formula was drawn up in a conference between National Chairman John L. Lewis and E. J. Oliver executive vice-president, representing the League, and Max Yergan national president, Henry Johnson, national vice-president, and John P. Davis, national secretary, representing the Negro Congress.

ACTIVE COOPERATION

Highlight of the agreement was a pledge of active cooperation in a campaign to protect the National Labor Relations Act against any amendments and to pass the Wagner-Capper-Van Nuys Anti-lynching bill in this session of Congress.

The conference arose out of an invitation, extended by National Chairman John L. Lewis to the recent national convention of the Negro Congress, and its enthusiastic acceptance by the convention.

Included in the proposed agreement was a clause calling for a joint conference of representatives of the two organizations to be held about May 18, for the purpose of drawing up a legislative program upon which the Negro people and labor can cooperate. Committees will then be set up for joint action at state and national capitals to promote the legislative program mutually agreed upon.

Following is the text of the proposed agreement:

PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS AND LABOR'S NON-PARTISAN LEAGUE

The undersig... sentatives of the National Negro Congress and Labor's Non-Partisan League recognize that labor and the Negro people have a definite community of interest and that we stand on common ground in the following respects:

POINTS OF TEXT

(1) Labor, together with all sections of the Negro population of this country—whether professional or workingmen, farmers or youth—form the largest segment of the great exploited mass of producers and consumers.

(2) We can establish our rightful position in society only by unity of action among ourselves and in collaboration with other exploited segments of our population: the farmers, the youth, our elder citizens, and others who seek economic security and democratic rights for all of the American people.

(3) The same reactionary groups oppose all of us. Only by common action against these groups can we preserve and extend the economic security and democratic rights to which we all are entitled.

(4) We are seeking the same social and economic objectives and we are committed to the same constructive methods of achieving our common aims.

Recognizing that labor and the Negro people can be kept exploited only by keeping us disunited, our common reactionary opposition has heretofore succeeded by various methods in fostering antagonisms between us and thereby preventing united action. In order to bring about a better understanding and a greater harmony between organized labor and the Negro people we make the following recommendations:

(1) That the National Negro Congress vigorously promote a better understanding among the Negro people of the position, efforts and objectives of organized labor through the medium of its various educational and publicity facilities.

(2) That organized labor use every available means of promoting among its membership a similar understanding of the aims, objectives and aspirations of the Negro people of America.

(3) That in order to prevent any further antagonism between organized labor and the Negro people which might tend to nullify our expressed desire to work in harmony, we mutually agree to confer together before taking action which might affect either or both groups.

(4) That periodic conferences be held to analyze clearly the fields of contemplated joint action.

(5) That arrangements be made jointly to conduct studies for the purpose of discovering to what extent reactionary opposition to labor and the Negro people is attempting to divide labor and the Negro people through false propaganda and other divisive means.

Finally, we recognize that the antagonism which has thus far tended to disunite us has its origin among those who have been impartially exploiting both the Negro people and labor. This artificially fostered antagonism and the resultant deplorable economic and social conditions can be removed only through the extension of complete democracy to the whole American people. Organized labor shares with the Negro people the position of least security in the nation. Both groups have suffered under heavy oppression. The first condition to the development of democracy is that the basic constitutional rights of these groups be protected. The organized wage earners and the Negro people, recognizing that the National Labor Relations Act means to the wage earners generally the same kind of protection as the Wagner-Capper-Van Nuys Anti-Lynching Bill means to the Negro people, affirm their belief in the needs for these legal protections of their civil rights.

SPECIFICATION

In order to carry out the principles and objectives contained in the foregoing, we recommend the following specific action:

(1) That Labor's Non-Partisan League and the National Negro Congress will instantly and simultaneously use their full energies in a crusade to pass the Wagner-Capper-Van Nuys Anti-Lynching Bill and to defeat any amendments to the National Labor Relations Act.

(2) That a conference shall be held between committees designated by the National Executive Board of the National Negro Congress and by Labor's Non-Partisan League on or about May 18, 1940, for the purpose of drawing up a legislative program upon which the two organizations can collaborate.

(3) Committees shall be designated for the purpose of effecting collaboration at State and National Capitals for enactment of measures included in the joint legislative program.

(4) As soon as possible, committees representing the two organizations will meet together to plan cooperative action on a local and state scale in furtherance of the principles and objectives contained in the foregoing.

Will Tell Inside Story of Plots Against People

Daily Worker

American Oil Intrigues to Be Shown as Part of Drive to War

5-15-40

James W. Ford, member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, will address a mass rally tonight at 8 P. M. at Irving Plaza, 15th St. and Irving Place, under the auspices of all Manhattan sections of the Communist Party.

Ford, who will be the only speaker of the evening, will report on the present situation in Mexico and will answer questions from the floor. Sam Brown, N. Y. State Committee member, will act as chairman.

Because of recent developments in Europe there is unusual interest in Ford's report. The intrigues of the American oil interests in Mexico are part of the drive to involve America in the imperialist war as an active belligerent.

Ford has recently returned from Mexico where he attended the Extraordinary National Congress of the Mexican Communist Party as a fraternal delegate. His report will contain the inside story, never reported in the capitalist press, of the armed violence now being plotted by the reactionary Almazan forces, together with the Dies Committee, to block the will of the progressive forces backing Camacho in the coming presidential elecions.

For the first time in New York City since his return from Mexico, Ford will outline the steps being taken by the Mexican Communist Party to prepare the people for the coming crucial struggles.

JAMES W. FORD

W. Va. Coal Miners Reject Red Baiters, Sign Petition

Communists Collect 9,000 Signatures in Drive to Get on Ballot; Miners Becoming Disgusted With Two Old Parties

By Art Shields
(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHARLESTON, W. Va., May 21.—Red-baiting has failed among the coal miners of West Virginia, said John Lautner, State secretary of the Communist Party, today. Nearly nine thousand signatures to the petition that puts the Communist Party on the ballot this year establishes that fact.

Nearly all the signers were coal miners — that is, they were the workers in the basic industry of West Virginia, the most important bituminous coal state in the Union. And most of the miners approached by the signature collectors gladly inscribed their names on the petitions to put Browder and Ford and Oscar Wheeler (candidate for governor) on the ballot.

That doesn't mean that these miners are Communists. The vast majority are not. They want the Communist Party on the ballot as a third party, a working class party. That's their explanation. They are getting fed up with the double-crossing of the capitalist parties, which promise prosperity and relief and peace and break their promises.

REJECT OLD PARTIES

That's what they say. The first coal miner I talked to, when entering the state, in a coffee and sandwich place at Big Bend in the New River fields, turned aside from an argument about the respective merits of various Democratic Party and Republican candidates in the primaries and said "These candidates don't mean much to a workingman, that's why I don't care about politics."

"What would you say to a Party the workingmen controlled? I asked

"That would be different," he answered, and we had a good talk.

With most coal miners it was necessary merely to tell them one thing—that the Communist Party was a working-class party — and they signed. They won't all vote for it, but thousands will. And they all want to have alternative candidates on the ballot in case the Democrats and Republicans smell worse than usual.

WANT PEACE

Many coal miners signed the petitions because they want peace. And they are not pacifists. They marched eight thousand strong with high powered rifles in their hands against the gunmen of Sheriff Don Chafin of Logan County in 1921. They will fight for their rights but they don't want to die in imperialist adventures three thousand miles from home.

They want to keep America out of the war. And when they were told that Earl Browder had gone to prison in his fight against the war in 1917 they liked him for it.

They know Oscar Wheeler as an anti-war fighter. Wheeler, a former Socialist, one of the best known figures in the New River fields, was in prison with Eugene Debs after the last war. The miners respect him for that.

The old Socialist Party was a big movement in the West Virginia mountains more than 20 years ago. Socialists led the great strikes in Paint and Cabin Creek when scores of company thugs bit the dust. The Socialist Party is dead in West Virginia today — you don't need ten fingers to count its members in the state. The militant miners left it when it quit fighting.

JOIN COMMUNIST PARTY

Brant Scott, former international board member of the miners' union, whom I met in West Virginia during the armed march of 1921, was one of those Socialists. Brant had lost a leg in the mines long ago, but they used to say that he could do more fighting on one leg than most men on two. He proved that in Cabin Creek in 1913.

Now Brant is a Communist leader.

Thousands of miners, many ex-Socialists, are ready to join the growing number enrolling in the Party that is fighting for Socialism—the Communist Party.

Oscar Wheeler, known as the "key man" in the signature drive (a play on words because he kept a key shop in Beckley in the New River fields for 12 years) was protected by the miners when he was almost a lone Communist there. He was threatened with murder and kidnaping by the thugs, but the thugs feared to go the limit. Now Wheeler has Communist comrades behind him.

Wheeler said he never had an easier and pleasanter task than collecting 2,800 signatures in the hills near his home with the help of Guy Thorpe, a coal miner, who fought 22 months in Spain with the Abraham Lincoln Battalion.

"WE WANT FORD"

Ford's name was a magnet in the signature drive, a powerful magnet in getting more than five thousand Negroes to sign the petition.

"Yes, we want Ford; we know him," they said.

The Negro miners said they would follow Ford in the fight against lynching and the fight to get the vote for the folks they left behind in Alabama and other southern states.

You see these Negro miners living in tumble down company houses, unpainted wooden shacks of two and three rooms with leaking roofs. Sometimes in converted box cars.

I saw hundreds of such houses in tours of Cabin Creek and Logan and Mingo counties this week.

These houses are part of the ghastly "ill housed" section of the nation that Roosevelt used to talk about before the war.

And victims of this terrible housing want Ford.

"Yes we'll sign," said six Negro miners gladly as they sat around a table, lit by a dim carbide miner's lamp, in a Cabin Creek shack, when the signature collector came in.

Another Cabin Creek dweller, a Negro woman, looked at the petition and smiled and said: "Will you talk to my pastor in the next room."

And the pastor smiled too and said: "Yes I'll sign that."

The pastor knew what he was signing. He told of Communists he had known and the work they had done for the Negro unemployed.

Negro preachers were quick to sign, along with their parishioners, in almost every company town visited in Cabin Creek and in Logan and McDowell counties. These Negro preachers as a rule are workingmen too, who work for a living in the week and preach on Sundays. Some are worn out or crippled workers. A friend and myself gave a lift to a crippled Negro preacher up Cabin Creek.

"I worked too long in the water at the mine," said the preacher. "It got into my joints."

He hobbled with difficulty on a cane, with a leather covered Bible in his hand.

Signature getting wasn't plain sailing everywhere. In one town company stooges cracked a comrade's skull with sawed off pick handles. Fortunately he's on his feet again. But that was the only case of its kind.

The Communist program of adequate relief and better housing is a big thing in winning the miners' support. Unemployment is a terrible problem, and growing. New machinery is coming fast to the mines—conveyors and loading machines. They are throwing men out of work day by day. And the WPA is firing more men at the same time.

The miners love their union. It has doubled their wages while they work. But the problem of relief and employment instead of part-time requires political remedies as well.

It needs a third working class party.

Miami, Fla. Herald
April 29, 1940

Negroes Hear Divergent Views On Communism

WASHINGTON, April 28. (AP)—The national negro congress heard from its leaders divergent views Saturday on the merits of communism as practiced in the Soviet Union. John P. Davis of Washington, secretary of the organization, referred in his annual report, to the "real and genuine equal rights and freedom" of minority groups in the Soviet. But A. Philip Randolph of New York, president of the congress, who said some negroes "place their hopes in the Soviet Union," declared: "Their hopes are vain and unsubstantial, for the Soviet Union seeks expansion of its power over weaker peoples, regardless of color."

Miami, Fla. Herald
April 29, 1940

Negroes Hiss FDR Defender

Congress Raps U. S. Foreign Policy

By United Press

WASHINGTON, April 28.—The National Negro Congress Sunday night sharply condemned President Roosevelt's foreign policy after hissing and booing the negro president of the government employes union who defended the chief executive.

The congress, by an overwhelming majority, approved a resolution charging that "the Roosevelt government" had reversed its policy from one of concern for the people's welfare of the people to mobilization of America's resources for war.

Edgar Brown, president of the United Government Employes Union, was hissed as he protested the resolution's critical references to Mr. Roosevelt, declaring:

"God help the negro race if for any reason we do not stand by the policies of President Roosevelt."

President A. Phillip Randolph refused re-election because of his opposition to accepting money from the Communist party and unions affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations. Max Yergan of New York was named president.

The congress accepted, over Randolph's protests, the invitation of CIO president John L. Lewis to enter into a working agreement with his Labor's Non-Partisan League as a first step toward possible participation in a third party movement.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION-1940

NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS

John L. Lewis Speaks at

Citizenship And Rights Main Topics

Discussions by Leaders on All Phases of Negro Problems Scheduled

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, April 23.—When the gavel raps the Third National Negro Congress into session Friday evening at 8 o'clock and John L. Lewis, President of the CIO, and A. Philip Randolph, President of the National Negro Congress, deliver their respective speeches, the first act of a drama dealing with the lives of 15,000,000 Negroes in America, which has been months in planning, will have its first night.

Rev. Arthur D. Gray, Chairman of the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress will call the meeting to order with the historic gavel which is to be used throughout all the sessions of the Third National Congress. This gavel was made especially for the National Negro Congress by Hampton Institute students in 1935 from a piece of wood from one of the last slave ships to touch American shores. It was used to open the First National Negro Congress in Chicago in 1935, the Second Congress in Philadelphia in 1937, and the First Southern Negro Youth Congress in Richmond in 1937.

NETWORK TO BROADCAST SPEECH BY LEWIS

The speech by John L. Lewis at the opening session of the National Negro Congress in Washington will be broadcast nationally over the blue network of the NBC from 8:30 to 9 P. m. EST, Friday.

After the invocation by Rev. W. H. Jernagin, President of the National Baptist Sunday School Convention and Vice-President of the National Negro Congress, the audience will sing the "Star Spangled Banner" and the Washington Council will welcome the Third National Negro Congress through Reverend Gray.

President Randolph will speak next, followed by an interlude of music, then the address by the President of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, John L. Lewis

TO HEAR PROBLEMS

This session will be open to the general public.

The curtain will rise on the second act of the Congress, Saturday morning at 9:30. President Philip Randolph, as chairman, will outline the convention procedure and receive the preliminary report of the temporary credentials committee.

From this point until adjournment at 1 o'clock the convention will hear the reports of the National Secretary, the National Treasurer, pictures of the entire convention will be taken on the steps of the U. S. Department of Labor Auditorium, and brief meetings of elected committees will be held to select chairmen and secretaries.

Next on the agenda will be panels on Economic Security, Social Security, Citizenship Rights, and Cultural Freedom. The chairmen and discussion leaders are as follows:

Economic Security: Ishmael Flory, Chicago Council; discussion by Louis Burnham, Harlem Youth Federation, Miss Goldie Ervin, Philadelphia Council; David Lasser, President of the Workers Alliance of America.

Social Security: Miss Jessie Scott, Brooklyn Young Womens' Christian Association; discussion leaders: Malcolm Dobbs, Executive Secretary of the Council of Young Southerners; and Professor Doxey Wilkerson, International Vice-President of the American Federation of Teachers.

Citizenship Rights: Mason Smith, President of the Texas Negro People's Congress; discussion leaders: Dr. Charles A. Lewis, President of the Philadelphia Council of the National Negro Congress; Herman Long, President of the Southern Negro Youth Congress; Congressman Vito Marcantonio of New York; and Joseph Gelders, Secretary of the Civil Rights Committee of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

Cultural Freedom: Rev. Marshall Shepherd, Pennsylvania; discussion leaders: Dr. George E. Haynes, Executive Secretary of the Race Relations Department of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America; and Rabbi Moses Miller, President of the Jewish People's Committee.

"The Negro Farm Problem in America" will be the subject for the second general session late Saturday afternoon with Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, President of the Palmer Institute and Vice-President of the National Negro Congress as chairman, discussion leader, Owen Whitfield, International Vice-President of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America.

A brief devotional service will precede discussions by youth groups Sunday morning from 11 to 1, presided by Edward Strong.

The panels started Saturday afternoon will be continued on Sunday afternoon with the following people participating:

Economic Security: Dr. Charles Wesley Burton, Vice-President of the National Negro Congress; Mr. Philip Murray, Chairman of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee; Mr. Joseph Curran, President of the National Maritime Union; and Mr. George Brown, International Vice-President of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers International Alliance and Bartenders League of America.

Social Security: Mr. James H. Baker, Jr., Regional Director of the National Negro Congress; Dr. Dorothy Boulding Ferebee, National President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; Dr. Robert C. Weaver, Race Relations Director of the United States Housing Authority.

Citizenship Rights: Dr. Albert Forsythe, National Board Member of the National Negro Congress; Mr. James A. Brier, President of the Greenville, S. C., Branch of the N. A. A. C. P.; Mr. Charles H. Houston, Special Counsel for the N. A. A. C. P.; Mr. William H. Hastie, Dean of Howard University Law School.

Cultural Freedom: Mr. Arthur Huff Fauset, author of "Sojourner Truth" and other volumes; Mr. Powell Lindsay, playwright; Miss Gwendolyn Bennett, Director of the Harlem Art Project; Mr. Sterling Brown, author of "Southern Road."

The final business session will start Sunday evening with a report of the Credentials Committee. Other reports will be those of the Committee on Organization, the Committee on Resolutions, and the report of the Presiding Committee on Nominations, followed by election of officers and adjournment.

Abolish The Poll Tax, Negro Congress Urges

WASHINGTON, D. C., (ANP) Charging that John N. Garner, "Cotton" Ed Smith, Theodore G. Bilbo, Gene Cox, Martin Dies, Howard Smith, and Tom Connally are typical Southern legislators who have opposed every progressive democratic trend in national legislation, a spokesman for the National Negro Congress declared that the results of the activity of these men in Congress are poll tax laws and other restrictions which keep three out of every four citizens in the South from voting.

Eight states, Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennesee, Texas and Virginia, have laws requiring the payment of a poll tax of from $1 to $3 a year, it was pointed out. In four of these states the tax is cumulative for periods of from three to 39 years, records show, and in Mississippi a voter may be required to pay amounts of from $2 to $117 before he will be allowed to vote.

In other states the range is from $1 to $39. The extreme poverty of the average Negro family makes the poll tax an effective bar to voting, it was emphasized.

In the eight states named in 1930 there were more than 3,185,000 Negroes of voting age, and less than one per cent of them voted, it was authoritatively shown. The poll tax also has disfranchised the majority of whites who are denied the right to vote on the same grounds.

THE LOW DOWN

Insider Analyzes Political And Financial Policies Of NNC And Predicts The Congress 'Will Move Forward'

By WILLIAM C. JASON, Jr.

Publicity Director of Philadelphia Council of National Negro Congress

With these impressive and prophetic words "The National Negro Congress will move forward," Dr. Max Yergan acknowledged his election as national president of the Negro Congress, and the approval of more than twelve hundred delegates was registered by a deafening applause. Now that the press—all the press; North and South, black and white, daily and weekly, friendly and hostile—has had its say, perhaps some space can be given to those who speak for the Congress itself.

Further, that the Negro Congress actively build support for those candidates for public office whose records show them to have championed the Negro Cause: that where there are no such candidates, support be rallied for those who have a philosophy and platform that is understanding and sympathetic to such a program."

NO POLITICAL TIE

Today it so happens that the policy of the NNC definitely parallels that of Labor's Non-Partisan League. What then could be simpler or more sensible than the resolution of the Washington Convention which reads: "Resolved to ACCEPT THE INVITATION TO ARRIVE AT A WORKING AGREEMENT OF THE NNC WITH THE FORCES OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR ON THE BASIS OF THE PROGRAM OF THE NNC; AND THAT A COMMITTEE OF FIVE BE APPOINTED TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES BY WHICH THE NNC CAN WORK TOGETHER WITH LABOR'S NON-PARTISAN LEAGUE"?

It is to be noted that this is no tie to any political party. No committments are made. After study and investigation the National Executive Board of some fifty people will decide what the NNC shall do. Even this decisnon is subject to the wishes of the delegates to the next National Convention.

FINANCES

Everybody knows that the Negro this day is in the position of the man returning from Jerusalem who fell among thieves who, when they had beaten and robbed him, left him on the roadside more dead than alive. The story does not state that the victim would have spurned assistance had any been coming from either priest or Levite, each of whom took one look and hastily passed by on the other side of the road. They offered none. The victim with gratitude took what he could get from the Samaritan.

The whole progress of the American Negro collectively and individually is the story of good Samaritans. Who were the abolitionists? Who financed the under-ground railway? What of Lincoln? What of our Negro schools, colleges, hospitals and YM - YWCA's? Who gave the money that brought them into being and keeps them going? What of our Fellowships and scholarships—and so on and on without end—practically all are the gifts of white Samaritans.

To say that the NNC ought to be an exception to the rule is to close one's eyes to reality. Because the NEGROES WHO STAND TO BENEFIT MOST DIRECTLY FROM THE EXISTENCE AND PROGRAM OF THE NNC HAVE MONEY FOR NEITHER FOOD NOR RAIMENT AND CERTAINLY NONE FOR CONVENTIONS.

Everybody knows conventions cost money. Who pays for them? Take a National Political Convention for instance: Some money is gotten from the 'big wigs' who on the basis of their wealth can afford to make large contributions. Much comes by way of kick-back' and forced donations from the 'small fry' who, under the spoils system, flourish if their side wins.

The NNC has neither class of contributors. The money donated to it was given without strings. There is no future remuneration forth coming. Donors know this. Then **the contributions whether from A. F. of L., CIO, Independent Unions, Churches, Communists, Civic Clubs, Social Groups, or Individuals are Good Samaritans' Contributions of the Purest Types.** They were given to help a race that is not only on the side of the road but actually in the ditch.

FORWARD

The NNC will move forward because it has a capable leadership. President Max Yergan stands second to none as a scholar of world affairs. His is a long and matchless experience of what it means to be black. Note the calibre and diversity of our six vice presidents: Dr. Robert A. Simmons of Boston, Mass, and Rev. W. H. Jernagin of Washington, D. C., are clergymen. The latter is president of the National Baptist Sunday School Congress. Rev. Owen Whitfield is also a minister, although he is nationally known for organizing sharecroppers and tenant farmers of Arkansas. Mrs. Fay Allen of Los Angeles is on the school board of that city. Henry Johnson of Chicago is an assistant national director of the Packing House Workers Organizing Committee. Dr. Charles A. Lewis is known to all of us in this area as a fearless fighter for the "under dog". Executive Secretary John P. Davis and Treasurer U. Simpson Tate are known for their efficiency and past services in the Congress.

DR. MAX YERGAN

"The National Negro Congress will move forward," he says.

Such a leadership will not be hoodwinked at any attempt to apply the principle of "divide and rule". Playing black against white, CIO against A. F. of L., England against Germany, or any other splitting devise will not work. Such a leadership will faithfully and fearlessly carry out the mandate of the twelve hundred delegates. They will not be rendered silent by epithets or imprecations, nor will name-calling or curses render them inactive.

The NNC will move forward because it is larger than any one, ten or one hundred people. Disappointment, fatigue, opportunism and death will take toll, but others will step up and close the ranks.

The NNC will move forward because it is sanely constructed. Four hundred and fifty-nine delegates came from trade unions, two hundred and forty-eight from civic organizations and one hundred and ninety-six from youth. In these groups there is power and life which assures our future.

Finally the NNC will move forward because it has in short, just one job—to make FULL FLEDGED AMERICAN CITIZENS OUT OF ALL NEGROES—TO SECURE FOR THEM THE FULL OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN ALL AMERICAN LIFE WITH FREEDOM AND SECURITY.

FORWARD THEN WE GO, building a brighter future for our despised, disfranchised and discriminated Race. We must save it from a landless, jobless, and property-less oblivion. THE JOB IS SURELY BIG ENOUGH TO AFFORD A PLACE FOR ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE THAT NEGROES, TOO, ARE AMERICANS.

District Youth Group Attacks Conscription

SEP 17 1940

Tribune
Washington, D.C.

The Burke-Wadsworth conscription bill was roundly attacked at the meeting of the Washington Youth Federation at the Twelfth Street YMCA Sunday afternoon, before a large audience.

Reports of delegates to the Peace Mobilization convention held recently at Chicago cited the almost unanimous disapproval of the bill among young people the country over.

Pointing out the fallacies in the arguments of many proponents of the measure, Louis Burnham, executive secretary of the Youth Council of the National Negro Congress, emphasized that the same Congressmen who have fought the anti-poll tax bill, the anti-lynching bill, and WPA and NYA appropriations are the leading ones who supported the conscription bill.

He further tied up the question of national defense with the question of liberation of Negro Peoples here in America.

Hits Race Prejudice

One of the highlights of the meeting was the address by Clinton Clark, a Louisana sharecropper and official of the Louisiana Tenant Farmers' Union. Pointing out that his Southern brethren first needed a democracy and a home to defend before they could be asked to support national defense. Clark roundly scored the "American way of life."

He told of his work in organizing farmers in Louisiana, of his nearly being lynched and of the general reawakening and cooperation of both Negro and white people throughout the South.

A. Langston Taylor, chairman of the citizen's committee on police brutality, spoke vividly concerning the type of police behavior which was exhibited on the Capitol steps last Thursday night where a Negro woman was beat across the head by a Capitol policeman because she came to a meeting to protest the conscription bill.

Peter Price, of Nashville, one of the young people who toured Alabama with a group of civic workers recently, told of the conditions he found in the urban and rural areas of that state. He cited the incarceration of a young Negro girl still in jail because a white woman accused her of stealing six ears of corn. "If [illegible] becomes law," Price concluded, "these cases will multiply a hundredfold."

Miss Thelma Dale, chairman of the local youth federation, presided.

A PHILLIP RANDOLPH EXPLAINS WHY HE DID NOT SEEK REELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE NEGRO CONGRESS

By A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

I am convinced that the Third National Negro Congress has not succeeded in removing from the mind of the public the idea that the charge of the Dies' Committee, that the National Negro Congress is a Communist Front, and a transmission belt for Communist propaganda, is not true. In fact, the Congress has brilliantly succeeded in giving the charge every appearance of truth and validity.

I am convinced, also that until the stigma of the Communist Front is wiped from the Congress, it will never rally the masses of the Negro people.

The procedure, conduct and policies of the Negro Congress, as set up in this third national meeting, will make its influence in the affairs of the American Negroes short lived. The American Negroes will not long follow any organization which accepts dictation and control from the Communist Party. The American Negro will not long follow any organization which accepts dictation and control from any white organization.

In the last national executive committee meeting in New York City, Brother John P. Davis was authorized to go out and borrow $1000 to help put the Third Congress over. He informed me that he had borrowed it and mentioned the name of a man. I was given no specific identity of the man. What was the course of this money? The delegates to the Congress should know. Because whatever is the source of the money with which the Congress is run, will also be the source of its ideas, policies and control.

Supported By CIO

It is a well known fact that most of the contributions to this Congress, expressed by the secretary, Mr. Davis, are from CIO unions. Is this the reason why the Congress is taking the CIO line?

In an executive committee meeting in New York City, Mr. Davis informed it that the Communist Party contributed $100 a month to the Congress. Is this the reason why the Congress refuses to attempt to make plain to the American people that it is not a Communist Front? These questions should be definitely and unequivocally answered.

When I was asked in a Committee meeting in New York to visit some unions, or sign a letter to be sent to certain unions for funds, I refused, because I am unalterably opposed to having a Negro organization, which is supposed to be fighting the battles of the race, depending for its main income upon a source outside of the Negro people themselves.

I am opposed to the National Negro Congress depending upon the Communists or CIO for its financial maintenance, because I am opposed to the Congress being dominated by either the Communists or the CIO. The Congress should be uncontrolled and responsible to no one but the Negro people. But it will not be uncontrolled and responsible to no one but the Negro people unless the Negro people supply the money for its maintenance.

Now, there is nothing against the Congress receiving contributions from unions, but is dangerous business where there is a split in the labor movement, for it to receive practically the major funds, upon which its existence depends, from unions on one side of the fence. It is bound to make the Congress biased toward one side, and thereby, destroy the union front and mass character of the Congress, because it will no longer be able to rally the Negro workers in the A. F. of L.

When the National Negro Congress loses its independence, it loses its soul, and has no further reason for being. It also forfeits and betrays the faith and confidence of the Negro masses. It will shatter the hopes and aspirations of the Negro people who yearn and pray for the Negro Congress not to sell out either to labor or capital, Communists or Republicans or Democrats.

Since the trend of the National Negro Congress is obviously toward domination by the Communists and the CIO, I would not stand for reelection for president.

I do not oppose domination of the Congress by the CIO because I am opposed to the CIO. I would be opposed to domination of the Congress b ythe A. F. of L., or any other white organization.

With respect to domination by the Communists, I am not only opposed to domination of the Congress by them, but I consider the Communists a definite menace and a danger to the Negro people and labor, because of their rule or ruin and disruptive tactics in the interest of the Soviet Union.

It was apparent, immediately the Congress got under way, that the temper, flavor and viewpoint of the Congress were Communistic, and that the resolutions adopted would reflect the Communist line. It was not long before my suspicions were confirmed, for the person who was selected for the chairman of the Resolutions Committee, is an acknowledged Communist. This was an unpardonable, colossal and childish blunder. I didn't protest against it because I knew it was useless, since the Congress was deliberately packed with Communists and CIO members who were either Communists or sympathizers with Communists.

Calls Congress Failure

The Third National Negro Congress was a miserable failure, so far as representing the sentiment of the American Negro people is concerned. Uproarious applause greeted every favorable reference in the Congress to Soviet Russia. The statement was even made that the Negro people would not fight in an imperialist war against the Soviet Union. But this is far from the truth. If the U. S. declared war upon Communist Russia tomorrow, the Negro would fight Russia, with all the fervor and patriotism of any other 100 per cent American. Anyone who believes to the contrary is living in a fool's paradise.

Soviet Russia was hailed as a land without poverty or race prejudice. But the fact is, there are no Negroes in Soviet Russia that would occasion any manifestation of race discrimination. However, it is significant to note that Bolshevik Russia freely sold oil to Fascist Italy to assist the murderous war of invasion of the peace loving and ancient kingdom of Ethiopia.

I quit the Congress because I was opposed to linking it up with Labor's Non-Partisan League, the political mouthpiece of the CIO, this was a departure from the minimum program upon which there could be general agreement and a sound basis for rallying the Negor masses.

It seems axiomatic and as simple as one, two, three, that the Congress could not rally the Negroes in the A. F. of L., if it were tied up with the CIO, and it could not rally the Negroes in the CIO, if it were allied with the A. F. of L.

I quit the Congress because I was opposed to it, or its officials, expressing sympathy for the Soviet Union, which is the death prison where democracy and liberty have walked their "last mile" and where shocking "blood purges" wipe out any, and all persons who express any dissenting opinions from Dictator Stalin.

Delegates Called Parrots

I quit the Congress because I saw that the Communists were firmly in the saddle and the delegates were not subject to the influence of facts and reason. Their minds were already made up when they came there by Communists' manipulations, caucuses and propaganda. Nothing could shake them. Even poor old men and women from the deep South and from some parts up North, who didn't have the slightest idea of what it was all about, parrot fashion, went down the Communist line, like bleating sheep led to the slaughter.

I quit the Congress because it is not truly a Negro Congress. Out of some 1200 or more delegates, over 300 were white, which made the Congress look like a joke. It is unthinkable that the Jewish Congress would have Gentiles in it, or that a Catholic Congress would have Protestants in it, or that the famous All India Congress would have in it as members natives of Africa. Why should a Negro Congress have white people in it?

It is no evidence of religious prejudice that Baptists don't accept Methodists into membership, or of sex prejudice that women's clubs don't take men in as members. It was perfectly ridiculous and distressing, if not comical, to observe the white delegates dominating the applause for Communists' policies and tactics.

But while I oppose white members of the Negro Congress, I favor the Congress collaborating with non-political white organizations that are progressive, liberal and sound.

The Negro people must beware of all subtle forms of Communist propaganda poison to save themselves from destruction. It seems to be beyond the realm of debate that the Negro people cannot afford to add to the handicap of being black, the handicap of being red.

Lewis at the Negro Congress

JOHN L. LEWIS once again spoke the minds of millions in his address before the National Negro Congress, held in Washington last weekend. The leader of the CIO has a special talent for articulating with impressive eloquence, the moods and aspirations of our people. Standing before the representatives of the most harassed and exploited section of the population, his speech was a challenge to that whole evil system which torments and degrades fifteen million black Americans; it was a pledge of labor's solidarity in this fight; it was a warning to those who seek the solution of America's problems in foreign wars.

As in his speech to the American Youth Congress in February, Lewis demanded that the Department of Justice act to test the constitutionality of the poll tax laws that deprive millions of Negro and white citizens of their voting rights. He also spoke with tart irony of J. Edgar Hoover's "fantastic stories of plots against our country by foreign powers" while Ku Kluxers and lynchers go unpunished.

Lewis devoted more attention to the question of keeping America out of war than in any previous speech.

> There are people in this country [illegible] who want to get us into war. They are growing bolder. Mark you, soon they will have worked up their courage to talk about going to war to save Iceland and Borneo. We must not go to war. If it is our mission to save Western civilization, then let us begin by saving it right here in our own country.

Lewis showed what needs to be done on the home front. He made no direct reference to the new political alignment of labor, the farmers, the Negro people, and the old-age pension groups which he projected in his West Virginia speech April 1. But his invitation to the Negro Congress to establish a working agreement with Labor's Non-Partisan League points in that direction.

Negro Congress Branch Honors Dr. Max Yergan

Several hundred members of the Brooklyn Council of the National Negro Congress were present at a dinner Wednesday night tendered by the organization in honor of Dr. Max Yergan, recently elected national head of the Congress.

Dr. Yergan, professor of Negro history at City College, is a recent recipient of the Spingarn Medal from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He is chairman of the International Committee on African Affairs.

Included among the guests of honor were Special Sessions Justice Myles A. Paige, Mrs. Anne Arnold Hedgeman, executive secretary of the Ashland Place YWCA; Ferdinand Smith, vice-president of the National Maritime Union J. Daniel Diggs, executive secretary of Brooklyn Elks' Lodge 32, and Arthur L. Comither, executive secretary of the Carlton Avenue Y. M. C. A.; the Rev. J. Oscar Lee, pastor of the Nazarene Congregational Church; Fred Turner, president of the Brooklyn Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; the Rev. T. J. Alcantara, rector of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church; the Rev. George W. Thomas, pastor of the Brown Memorial Bapt. Church; Mrs. Margaret V. Brown, treasurer of the Brooklyn Council; Dorothy K. Funn, Arthur Q. Martin, and Benjamin F. Butler, Jr., and Malcolm G Martin, president of the Council. Martin was toastmaster.

LETTER TO FDR LABELS MOVE AS 'INCONSISTENT'

L. E. Burnham Urges Roosevelt to Make Stand on Lynch Bill

In a letter to President Roosevelt, made public this week, Louis E. Burnham, secretary of the Youth Council of the National Negro Congress, placed that organization on record in opposition to the proposed bill for compulsory universal military service.

Stating that Negro youth join with the entire young generation in pledging their energies, talents, and if need be their lives for the defense of their country, Mr. Burnham nevertheless claimed that the measured approved by the Senate Military Affairs Committee "is inconsistent with the needs of a genuine defense program.

He asked Mr. Roosevelt to "establish a precedent which all our people would welcome" by speaking out for passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill, and also requested support of the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill, passage of the American Youth Act and repeal of the Smith Anti-Alien Law.

Represents 200,000

"Our organization, representing 200,000 young Negroes throughout the United States stands distressed at the report of the action of the Senate Military Affairs Committee in reporting favorably a bill for the forced military conscription of American citizens," the letter read.

"No loyal American can object to any item of a democratic program for the defense of the country and its institutions. And Negro youth Mr. President, join with the entire young generation in pledging their energies, talents, and, if need be, their lives, for such defense.

"It is for this reason and no other that we are shocked that militarization of youth is today called a defense measure. America is today at peace, and intends to remain so while she prepares for any eventuality that may arise out of the European holocaust. No tangible military threat today warrants this precedent — taking our young people from their families and their jobs and forcing them into military camps and battalions.

"The proposed measure, then, cannot be regarded by us in the light in which it is advertised as a measure 'to protect the integrity and institutions of the United States.' We can only view it as the direct opposite — a measure which threatens our democratic institutions and is inconsistent with the needs of a genuine defense program.

"This bill seems to be of a piece with the recent federal actions compelling 3,500,000 foreign born men and women to suffer the indignity of surveillance by the Department of Justice, to register and to be fingerprinted; with the unprecedented prosecution of labor unions under the Sherman anti-trust act.

Cites Main Problem

"We believe that the main question facing our government today is whether we can use democratic methods in defending democracy. The Youth Council of the National Negro Congress insists that this is possible, Mr. President, and we suggest the following steps for your consideration:

1. As President of the United States, establish a precedent which all our people would welcome: speak out in favor of the anti-lynching bill; demand a curb to the mob vilonce which sweeps the South today.

2. Indicate your support for the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax bill (H.R. 7534) which would give the democratic right to vote to ten million poor Negro and white men and women in eight Southern States.

3. Use the billion dollars that would be needed for conscription to give jobs to Americas' young people by urging the passage of the American Youth Act.

4. Restore the faith of 3,500,000 foreign born in America as a haven for the oppressed, by returing the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization to the Department of Labor, and seeking the repeal of the oppressive Smith Anti-Alien Law.

5. Provide guarantees that Negro youth will receive a fair share of the opportunties for jobs and training that will result from the National Defense Program.

"The youth of America are the best resources of democracy. We believe that an America which practices democracy within its borders is invincible. On the other hand, an America which negates democracy in the name of its defense is its own greatest enemy."

Adopt Negro Congress Plan Of Action Here

Delegates and Friends Map Program for Peace and Rights

Delegates to the recent Washington confernce of the National Negro Congress enthusiastically adopted a militant program of action at a meeting of the Greater New York Council held Monday night at the 135th St. branch of the Y.M.C.A.

Inspired by the decisions of the Washington meeting, civic, political, trade union and professional leaders pledged unstinted support to the efforts of the Congress to secure adequate jobs, health facilities, and civil and democratic rights for the Negro people of New York and vicinity.

The keynote of the spirited session of delegates and Congress sympathizers was given by Dr. Max Yergan, national president of the organization. In a dynamic and forceful address, he called for the closest unity of the Negro people and their allies in the efficient and effective prosecution of the program and aims of the National Negro Congress.

HITS RED-BAITERS

Replying to the critics of the Congress, Dr. Yergan declared:

"Understanding clearly, as we do, the purpose and motive of those who would weaken and divide, and if possible destroy the Congress, we know the uselessness of argument with them."

He took sharp issue with Congressman Mitchell for his unwarranted attack upon the Negro Congress, and warned that "the purpose of other criticism made of our great convention in Washington is definitely to divest us and millions of other Americans from adhering to the strict and straight path of struggling for democratic rights.

"The well known method of those who would divert us from this is to raise the 'Red' cry. The Congress refuses to be victimized by this trick. The Congress refuses to let Congressman Dies who holds his seat in Congress because of the grossest un-Americanism in violation of the Constitution of the United States whereby practically 95 per cent of the potential voters of his district are denied the franchise, victimize us by the cry of 'Red.'

NEED FOR UNITY

"The Congress has one caust to defend—that of the Negro people as a part of democracy in America. Our purpose is constructive; our method must be entirely correct and thereby characterized by boldness; and we are in deadly earnest because our cause is the greatest cause for which any effort can be put forth, namely, the protection and the full advancement of an entire people in a potentially truly great democracy."

Stressing the need for unity of all progressive forces, Dr. Yergan said: "It cannot be over-emphasized that the Negro people do not have to carry on their struggle alone. It would be fatal for them to do so. A purely racial struggle would be a defiance of the lessons of the modern effort of man to free himself."

"With ever increasing unity among the Negro people themselves and with ever widening cooperaton with other peoples and organizations that depend upon and therefore work for a democratic America, we press forward towards our goal with confidence in our cause and determination in our effort," he declared.

The right to vote in the South, peace, civil liberties and economic security are the main issues, he said, for which Negroes must fight while declaring their vigorous opposition to plans of the Roosevelt administration to drag America into the imperialist war.

New Prexy Takes Helm of National Negro Congress

Scene shows part of audience at the opening meeting of the National Negro Congress, Friday night, in the auditorium of the United States Department of Labor. In theupper left hand corner is inset of A. Phillip Randolph, president of the congress since its inception in 1936 in Chicago, who "took a walk" Sunday rather than support congress resolutions condemning President Roosevelt and accept John L. Lewis's invitation to join Labor's Non-Partisan League. Randolph told the delegates that the National Negro Congress had accepted money from the Communists and the CIO and that "wherever you get your money, you get your ideas and control." In the upper right corner is the new president, Max Yergan, New York, director of the International Committee on African Affairs.

A. Philip Randolph Quits; Max Yergan Named President of Body

John L. Lewis Invites Congress to Join Forces With Labor Non-Partisan League; Offer is Accepted

The Third National Negro Congress, at its closing meeting, Sunday, revolted against the conservative policies of the administration of A. Philip Randolph, by passing a resolution which instructed the incoming executive committee to appoint a committee of five to explore the possibilities by which the Congress can work with the Labor Non-Partisan League.

When approached by various members of the congress to be a candidate for reelection for president, Mr. Randolph declined to run. In a speech made at the closing meeting in which he made his refusal to be a candidate for re-election known publicly, Mr. Randolph gave as his reasons: 1. that he was opposed to accepting money from the Communist party and the unions affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organization and 2. that he believed the congress should not tie up with any political organization but should depend upon the resources supplied by the Negro people alone.

Mr. Randolph is president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. The new officers elected by the congress were: Max Yergan, New York, president; Henry Johnson, Chicago, the Rev. W. H. Jernagin, Washington; Mrs. Fay Allen, Los Angeles; the Rev. Owen Whitfield, Kirkwood, Mo.; Dr. Charles A. Lewis, Philadelphia; and Dr. Robert A. Simmons, vice presidents; John P. Davis and U. Simpton Tate were re-elected national secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Meetings in Labor Auditorium

The congress, which was held in the auditorium of the United States Department of Labor, was called to order on Friday, April 26, by the Rev. Arthur D. Gray, president of the Washington Council of the National Negro Congress, who welcomed the delegates to the nation's capital.

The president, in his address, stated that the Negro was living in a crisis. Flaying the Dies Committee in its high-handed methods of seizing papers and properties of those persons or groups labeled as Communists, he asked those present how could the committee claim to be seeking to serve the American democractic system while it violates the most sacred and cardinal principles of democracy; freedom of religion, and political beliefs and security of one's personal property?

Instead of creating a democracy, this committee is poisoning the American democracy which will in turn cause totalitarian ideological regimentation, senseless fear and desperation that is certain to bring paralysis and death, if unchecked, to the first ten amendments of the Constitution, known as the bill of rights, he stated.

Federation of Organizations

He further stated that the Congress had no political or religious affiliations but was a federation of organizations the purpose of which is to mobolize strength which will enable the Negro people more effectively to grapple with vital questions facing them such as securing the enactment of the anti-lynching bill, abolishing the poll tax, securing a just and fair share of employment, breakdown all forms of jim-crowism, in the government, school system, industry and labor organizations.

In closing he stated that the Negro Congress seeks to join hands with all groups within the country that are subjected to persecution, hatreds and violence with a view to developing force that will make for the security and perpetuation of American democratic institutions, traditions and ideals.

The principal address of the evening was made by John L. Lewis, president of the Congress of Industrial Organization. In his speech which was carried over a nation-wide radio hookup, Mr. Lewis stated that he was one American who believed in equality of opportunity for the Negro people and that he was anxious that the Negroes in this country become acquainted with just what his organization meant to the working class at large and the Negro in particular.

Attacks Poll Tax Laws

Attacking the poll tax laws of some Southern States, Mr. Lewis said: "Let there be no mistake about it, labor will not rest until the right to vote becomes the right of every citizen, unhampered by such devices as the poll tax." He also attacked President Roosevelt and the Civil Liberties Bureau of the Department of Justice for failing to bring the practice before the Federal courts.

In closing his remarks, he urged that the congress become more closely organized and that each delegate go to his home with the thought of organizing his council more closely. He invited the congress to join hands with the labor Non-Partisan League so that the knotty problems may be met with a united front.

John P. Davis, in his report on Saturday at the morning session outlined the growth of the congress from its beginning five years ago, to the present time. He stated that at the outset the congress followed the model laid down by Frederick Douglass, Martin Delaney, Matt Henson and others who started the movement toward unifying the people into one strong organization.

Urges Abolishment of Poll Tax

JOHN L. LEWIS

President of the CIO who was given a tremendous ovation before the opening meeting of the National Negro Congress, Friday night, when he urged the abolishment of the poll tax so that every citizen can vote "unhampered by such devices." His talk was carried over a coast-to-coast network of the National Broadcasting Company. The congress voted to accept Mr. Lewis's invitation to affiliate with Labor's Non-Partisan League.

Labor Support Marks Negro Congress' Opening Session

By Ben Davis, Jr.
(Sunday Worker Staff Correspondent)

WASHINGTON, April 27.—One of the outstanding features of the enthusiastic Third National Negro Congress, in session here, is the fact that it represents the increasing attention given by the organized labor movement to the struggle for Negro rights. The congress is taking place in the U. S. Salon Auditorium.

This was symbolized first of all in the unprecedented and sustained ovation given to the CIO president, John L. Lewis, during his address at the opening of the congress last night.

Secondly, the incomplete tally of registered delegates is above that thousand already with at least 40 per cent of those coming from trade unions and industrial councils. The remaining 60 per cent thus far are from Negro, Civic, Youth, Social clubs, fraternal societies, women's groups, defense organizations and miscellaneous groups of a wide variety.

FROM 28 STATES

Both CIO and A. F. of L. unions are represented. They come from 28 States, according to the latest tabulations.

Among the unions represented are: The San Francisco District Union Council of the CIO, representing 40,000 members, the delegate being Bjorne Halling; Joseph Albright, Minneapolis Joint Union Council, and active member of the Minnesota Farm-Labor Party; Daniel Dreisen, American Communications Association of New York City; Abe Scholink, Local 50 of the Bakery and Confectionery Union, New York City, of 6,000 members; Local 5, of the Teachers Union in New York City; the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, A. F. of L. and others.

Scores of greetings poured into headquarters today from unions throughout the country from: W. A. Marshall, president of the Chrysler Local 7 of the United Automobile Workers, in Michigan; Edith Daniels, secretary, Des Moines, Iowa, Industrial Union Council and others.

A variety of these greetings show the broad character of the congress. They came from Mrs. Susie Revels Cayton a descendant of Hiram Revels, one of the two Negro U. S. Senators from the State of Mississippi during the Reconstruction Era; from Equality Magazine, of New York City; from Samuel Kolb, chairman of the American Labor Party Club of the Sixth A. D. in Brooklyn, N. Y.

The cheers for Lewis, joined by an overflow audience composed of Negro and white people from all walks of life, almost shook the portals, of this massive assembly hall. As soon as Lewis walked upon the stage, the audience broke into thunderous applause.

His speech, delivered in his dynamic manner and with intense and thunderous tones, was punctuated so frequently with applause that he had to rush through the latter part of his prepared text in order to comply with his half-hour broadcasting time over the NBC network.

His extemporaneous address, accepting the plaque presented him in the name of the congress and the Negro people by John P. Davis, secretary of the congress, was even more powerfully delivered. The plaque was presented for distinguished service to the Negro people. He ended with the words "organize, organize, organize" for your rights, and cheers and applause burst like a peal of thunder upon the vast auditorium.

Lewis stressed the miserable oppression of the Negro people and urged the passage of the Federal anti-lynching bill, his appeal to the congress and to the Negro people to join hands with labor in common cause of struggle for a better life is still to be acted upon by this body. But the unmistakable approval of the delegates was apparent in the deafening applause from the audience.

It appears that this congress will mark a new day in the struggle of the Negro people for social justice and full citizenship a hopeful and brighter day because labor is moving ahead to its rightful place in the forefront of the fight for the complete freedom of 15,000,000 Negro Americans.

Honor John L. Lewis at Negro Congress

'FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE NEGRO PEOPLE'—Negro Congress leaders present John L. Lewis, president of the CIO, with bronze plaque as annual conference opens. The plaque shows two miners, one Negro and one white, clasping hands. Award is made annually by the Negro Congress to one outstanding individual. Two miners presenting plaque are Milford Jackson and Thomas Starks. Mr. Starks heads a United Mine Workers local of 32,000 members.

'Had Rope Over My Neck,' He Tells Negro Congress

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 27.—The first thing James McMillan, part-time minister, coal miner and businessman, of Evarts, Kentucky, wanted to know when he arrived this morning to attend the Third Negro Congress in session today in the U. S. Department of Labor auditorium, was "What's being done about the anti-lynch bill?"

The reason is Mr. McMillan once felt the rope of lynchers around his own neck. A newspaper clipping of the story of the near-lynching is pasted in the back of his bible, which he carries everywhere. In 1934 he came from his home in Des Moines, Iowa, to Evarts. McMillan showed an interest in the social and economic problems of the people of his church. This was viewed with considerable disapproval by persons of influence in Evarts, and he was ordered to stop. Because he failed to do so, he was arrested on a fake charge of shielding a man who had allegedly committed a robbery

That night McMillan recalled this morning, five white men took him from the jail and carried him about three miles outside the city, terrorizing him by shooting in the air and yelling, thrusting the muzzles of the guns in his ribs.

McMillan says they put a rope around his neck, threw the end over the limb of a tree, and by their combined effort hoisted him clear off the ground. But just at the moment a car drove up and McMillan was dropped again

The would-be lynchers returned him to jail for ten days, and through the intervention of his wife he was later released.

That night two members of the lynching posse shot each other to death in a quarrel over a poker game.

McMillan prizes highly his membership in the United Mine Workers of America, CIO.

—Scurlock Photos

Shown on platform as Third National Negro Congress opened in auditorium of the Department of Labor building in Washington Friday night are (left to right) John L. Lewis, Katherine Lewis, executive secretary of her father, and John T. Jones, Thomas Starks and the Rev. Robert Brooks.

NEGRO CONGRESS "FULLY SUPPORTS" WORKERS ALLIANCE

SEP 2 0 1940

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12 (ANP)—The National Negro congress, through its executive secretary, John P. Davis, pledged full support to the program of the Workers Alliance of America at its convention held in Chicago last week.

"It is our purpose to give unstinted support to you in your fight for jobs instead of guns and bread instead of war. We stand with you in your fight against conscription and the sabotage of adequate relief," he

Branding former President David Lasser as a deserter, and declaring that the New Deal was subsidizing him in his efforts to organize a new national unemployed organization among the 10,000,000 still jobless Frank Ingram, national secretary, exposed what he called a plot to wreck the Workers Alliance.

Another speaker, Edward Sutro of Newark, New Jersey, charged that attempts were being made in his state to "railroad" all unemployed Negroes.

"Almost all of our grievances lately have come from the Negro people," he said. "This shows that there's something wrong in the state controlled by Boss Frank Hague. We believe that there is a concerted attempt to send our Negro brothers back to slavery down South."

The session marked the opening of the fifth national convention of the Workers alliance.

F.D.R. Says Nation Should Consider Special Problems Of Minorities

WASHINGTON, April 12—In a letter addressed to A. Philip Randolph, president of the National Negro Congress, President Franklin D. Roosevelt hailed the forthcoming third National Negro Congress to be held here in the United States Department of Labor auditorium April 26-28.

The text of the President's letter follows:

"It gives me pleasure to send greetings to another great and representative gathering of Negro citizens at the Third National Negro Congress. This is a time in the history of the world and in the history of our own nation when the wisdom of the whole people is more than ever needed if common problems are to be solved.

"Because of confusion and unrest it is now more than ever important that the place of a minority group in a democracy not be obscured by ignorance and prejudice. It is important that members of a minority group consider together their special problems in order that these problems may find expression for the benefit of all.

"It is of even greater importance that the whole people consider with open and sympathetic mind these problems of the minority in order that the processes of democracy may work to bring about their solution. For it is obvious that the political, social and economic well-being of the whole people depends upon the achievement of that well-being for all sections of the population regardless of color, creed or geography."

275 Pastors in Chicago Endorse Negro Congress

Baptist Parley Urges Passage of Anti-Lynch Bill; Ban on Poll Tax

(Special to the Daily Worker)

CHICAGO, April 24.—More than 275 Baptist pastors representing a membership of over 110,000 persons voted in this week's meeting of the Chicago Baptist Ministers Conference to "endorse the seven planks in the program of the Chicago Council of the National Negro Congress and to approve the program of the National Negro Congress itself—as far as these seven planks in its platform are concerned."

A seven-pointed program of the Congress which the Chicago Baptist Ministers enthusiastically endorsed reads:

7. Stop lynching through passage of an anti-lynch bill.

2. Abolish the poll tax and give the Negro the right to vote in the South.

3. Abolish slums, provide a decent and healthy environment through low rent, better houses, a national housing program, and the ending of restrictive covenants.

4. Win and establish improved schools and educational facilities.

5. End police brutality, unlawful arrests and detention; preserve and extend civil rights.

6. Procure jobs, provide adequate relief, end discrimination in relief and WPA and private industry.

7. Guarantee, in short, full freedom and equality to the Negro people, through united action of the people and their organizations behind every worthwhile and constructive endeavor of the community, the city, the state, and the nation.

The president of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Chicago is Dr. J. H. Branham, Senior, Associate pastor, Olivet Baptist Church, Rev. E. J. Coles, pastor of First Baptist Church, North Chicago, is the secretary. The chairman of the committee on Public Policy which recommended the endorsement of the 7-point program of the National Negro Congress is Rev. Wm. McDonald, pastor, Mt Vernon Baptist Church.

Charleston S. C. Evening Post
April 29, 1940

ARE URGED TO BOLT GROUP

AFL Negro Membership Told to Quit Negro Congress

Washington, April 29. (U.P.)—American Federation of Labor members were urged today to bolt the national Negro congress which, during its week-end annual meeting, accepted money from the communist party, pledged political cooperation with the Congress of Industrial Organizations and denounced President Roosevelt's foreign policy.

A. Philip Randolph, New York, head of the AFL's Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, declined reelection for a third term as president and resigned from the congress because it accepted financial contributions from the communist party and CIO unions, and because the delegates had vigorously applauded a defense of soviet Russia and a declaration that negroes would not aid the United States in a war with Russia.

Cornelius Maiden, Birmingham, Ala., AFL negro organizer who said that he attended the congress sessions as a personal representative of AFL President William Green, said he would confer with Green this week to urge that the federation's council forbid AFL members to join the congress.

Edgar Brown, bearded negro president of the unaffiliated United Government Employees union, was hissed as he opposed a resolution adopted almost unanimously, which charged that "the Roosevelt government has reversed its policy from one of concern for the welfare of the people to mobilization of America's resources for war."

More than 2,000 persons attended some of the congress sessions in a government auditorium, but the final report of the credentials committee showed 1,264 delegates, of whom 370 were white. Twenty-nine states were represented and 396 of the delegates were under 25 years of age.

Randolph asserted that the congress would lose its mass appeal by close ties to any political party or any special trade union group. He declared that it should refuse financial aid from any but negroes.

"It is my belief that the congress should be dependent on resources supplied by the negro people alone," he said. "The ground for my belief is that experience shows that where you get money you also get your ideas and control."

There was only a scattering of applause as Randolph spoke, but there was a roar of approval as Max Yergan, New York, was presented as the unopposed nominee for president. Randolph had been offered the nomination. Yergan is a lecturer at City College of New York.

Secretary John P. Davis, who defended soviet Russia and attacked Mr. Roosevelt's foreign policy, was reelected without opposition. Vice presidents include Henry Johnson, Chicago; Fay Allen, Los Angeles; the Rev. O. M. Whitfield, Kirkwood, Mo.; and Dr. Robert A. Simmons, Boston. James W. Ford, New York, vice presidential nominee on the communist ticket in 1936, was elected to the executive committee.

Dissolution of the Dies committee investigating unamerican activities, enactment of federal anti-lynching and anti-poll tax legislation, and pardoning of five "Scottsboro boys" still in Alabama prisons were urged in resolutions.

Why I Refused Reelection As President of the NNC

By A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

NEW YORK. — I am convinced that the Third National Negro Congress has not succeeded in removing from the mind of the public the idea that the charge of the Dies Committee, that the National Negro Congress is a Communist Front, and a Transmission Belt for Communist propaganda, is not true. In fact, the congress has brilliantly succeeded in giving the charge every appearance of truth and validity.

I am convinced, also, that until the stigma of the Communist Front is wiped from the Congress, it will never rally the masses of the Negro people.

The American Negroes will not long follow any organization which accepts dictation and control from the Communist Party. The American Negro will not long follow any organization which accepts dictation and control from any white organization.

Seeks Idenity of Donor of $1000

In the last national executive committee meeting in New York City, John P. Davis was authorized to go out and borrow $1000 to help put the third congress over. He informed me that he had borrowed it and mentioned the name of a man. I was given no specific identity of the man. What was the source of this money? The delegates to the congress should know. Because whatever is the source of the money with which the congress is run, will also be the source of its ideas, policies and control.

It is well known fact that most of the contributions to this congress, expressed by the secretary, Mr. Davis, are from CIO unions. Is this the reason why the congress is taking the CIO line?

In an executive committee meeting in New York City, Mr Davis informed it that the Communist Party contributed $100 a month to the congress. Is this the reason why the congress refuses to attempt to make plain to the American people that it is not a Communist Front? These questions should be definitely and unequivocally answered

When I was asked in a committee meeting in New York to visit some unions, or sign a letter to be sent to certain unions for funds, I refused, because I am unalterebly opposed to having a Negro organization, which is supposed to be fighting the battles of the race, depending for its main income upon a source outside of the Negro people themselves.

I am opposed to the National Negro Congress depending upon the Communists or CIO for its financial maintenance, because I am opposed to the congress being dominated by either the Communists or the CIO. The congress should be uncontrolled and responsible to no one but the Negro people. But it will not be uncontrolled and responsible to no one but the Negro people unless the Negro people supply the money for its maintenance.

Now, there is nothing against the congress receiving contributions from unions, but it is dangerous business where there is a split in the labor movement, for it to receive practically the major funds, upon which its existence depends, from unions on one side of the fence. It is bound to make the congress biased toward one side, and thereby, destroy the united front and mass character of the congress, because it will no longer be able to rally the Negro workers in the AF of L.

Forfeits Faith of Masses

When the National Negro Congress loses its independence, it loses its soul, and has no further reason for being. It also forfeits and betrays the faith and confidence of the Negro masses. It will shatter the hopes and asperations of the Negro people who yearn and pray for the Negro Congress not to sell out either to labor or capital, Communists or Republicans or Democrats.

Since the trend of the National Negro Congress is obviously toward domination by the Communists and the CIO, I would not stand for reelection for president.

I do not oppose domination of the congress by the CIO because I am opposed to the CIO. I would be opposed to domination of the congress by the AF of L, or any other white organization.

With respect to domination by the Communists, I am not only opposed to domination of the congress by them, but I consider the Communists a definite menace and a danger to the Negro people and labor, because of their rule or ruin and disruptive tactics in the interest of the Soviet Union.

It was apparent, immediately congress got under way, that the temper, flavor and viewpoint of the congress was deliberately packed with Communists and CIO members who were either Communists or sympathizers with Communists.

Failed to Reflect Negro Viewpoint

The Third National Negro Congress was a miserable failure, so far as representing the sentiment of the American Negro people is concerned. Uproarious applause greeted every favorable reference in the congress to Soviet Russia. The statement was even made that the Negro people would not fight in an imperialist war against the Soviet Union. But this is far from the truth.

If the United States declared war upon Communist Russia tomorrow, the Negro would fight Russia, with all the fervor and patriotism of any other 100 per cent American. Anyone who believes to the contrary is living in a fool's paradise.

Red Oil Conquered Ethiopia

Soviet Russia was hailed as a land without poverty or race prejudice. But the fact is, there are no Negroes in Soviet Russia that would occasion any manifestation of race discrimination. However, it is significant to note that Bolshevak Russia freely sold oil to Fascist Italy to assist the murderous war of invasion of the peace-loving and ancient kingdom of Ethiopia.

I quit the congress because I was opposed to linking it up with Labor's Non-Partisan League, the political mouthpiece of the CIO, since this was a departure from the original minimum program upon which there could be general agreement and a sound basis for rallying the Negro masses.

It seems axiomatic and as simple as one, two, three, that the Congress could not rally the Negroes in the AF of L, if it were tied up with the CIO, and it could not rally the Negroes in the CIO, if it were allied with the AF of L.

I quit the congress because I was opposed to it, or its officials, expressing sympathy for the Soviet Union, which is the death prison where democracy and liberty have walked their "last mile" and where shocking "blood purges" wipe out any, and all persons who express any dissenting opinions from dictator Stalin.

I quit the congress because I saw that the Communists were firmly in the saddle and the delegates were not subject to the influence of facts and reason. Their minds were already made up when they came there by Communists' manipulations, caucuses and propaganda. Nothing could shake them. Even poor old men and women from the deep South and from some parts up North, who didn't have the slightest idea of what it was all about, parrot fashion, went down the Communist line, like bleating sheep led to slaughter.

Not a True Negro Congress

I quit the congress because it is not truly a Negro Congress. Out of some 1200 or more delegates, over 300 were white, which made the congress look like a joke. It is unthinkable that the Jewish Congress would have Gentiles in it, or that a Catholic Congress would have in it as members natives of Africa. Why should a Negro Congress have white people in it?

It is no evidence of religious prejudice that Baptists don't accept Methodists into membership, or of sex prejudice that women's clubs don't take men in as members. It was perfectly ridiculous and distressing, if not comical, to observe the white delegates dominating the applause for Communists' policies and tactics.

But while I oppose white members of the Negro Congress, I favor the congress collaborating with non-political white organizations that are progressive, liberal and sound.

The Negro people must beware of all subtle forms of Communist propaganda poison to save themselves from destruction. It seems to be beyond the realm of debate that the Negro people cannot afford to add to the handicap of being **black**, the handicap of being **red.**

Complete Plans For Third Session Of Negro Congress

Dewey Word 2-4-40

Charge Dies Covered Up For Klan

NEW YORK CITY (ANS) —The mid-winter meeting of the executive board of the National Negro Congress which met here Sunday completed plans for the holding of the Third National Negro Congress in the city of Washington on April 26, 27, 28, 1940.

The Negro Congress body also scored the activity of the Dies Committee and openly charged Martin Dies, the Texas congressman who is chairman of the Committee, with covering up the un-American activities of the Ku Klux Klan.

The meeting of Congress offcials was attended by representatives of more than a score of local councils from the middle West, East and South. A. Philip Randolph, national president of the organization, presided at the meeting and pledged his organization to a ceaseless fight against the hunger, joblessness and lynch terror inflicted upon the Negro people.

Congress officials estimate tha 3,000 delegates will be in attendance at their third national meetings. Previous Congresses in Chicago have drawn between 1,500 and 2,000 delegates as well as severa thousand observers.

In a statement unanimously approved by members of the nationa board the National Negro Congres denied Martin Dies' accusation that the Congress was un-Ameri can. The statement exposed the fact that the Dies Committee ha consistently refused to permi Congress officials to testify

THIRD NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS TO MEET IN D. C.

Chicago Defender 1-27-40

Accuses Dies Group Of Covering Up for Klan Activities

NEW YORK. — The mid-winter meeting of the executive board of the National Negro Congress which met here Sunday completed plans for the holding of the Third National Negro Congress in Washington, on April 26, 27, 28, 1940.

The Negro Congress body also scored the activity of the Dies Committee and openly charged Congressman Martin Dies, of Texas, is chairman of the committee, with covering up the un-American activities of the Ku Klux Klan.

The meeting of National Negro Congress officials was attended by representatives of more than a score of local councils from the middle West, East and South. A. Philip Randolph, national president of the organization, presided at the meeting and pledged his organization to a ceaseless fight against unemployment and lynching.

Congress officials estimate that 3,000 delegates will be in attendance at their third national meetings. Previous Congresses in Chicago have drawn between 1,500 and 2,000 delegates as well as several thousand observers.

In a statement unanimously approved by members of the national board the National Negro Congress said the accusations by the Dies Committee that the Congress was un-American were plain falsehoods. The statement exposed the fact that the Dies Committee has consistently refused to permit Congress officials to testify.

HAMILTON RAPS YOUTH CONGRESS SPURNS ITS BID

Refuses to Name G. O. P. Envoy to Red Meeting.

2-5-40

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

Washington, D. C., Feb. 4.—John Hamilton, chairman of the Republican national committee, has declined to name a representative to attend the meeting of the American youth congress on Feb. 11 because of the failure of that organization to expel communistic groups from its membership.

Answering the request of the executive secretary of the congress to name a representative, Hamilton wrote:

"Until the American youth congress purges itself of its communistic elements, which, according to the Dies committee, dominate it, I shall not request any Republican to attend a meeting of your organization. I would not personally participate in meetings of the American youth congress, as now constituted, and I would not ask another to do what I would not.

Interested in Problems.

"In saying this, I do not mean in any way to reflect on the several very fine and really American organizations of youth affiliated with the American youth congress. Republicans are deeply interested in the problems of American youth, and as a party we desire, and are working, to bring about conditions in this country under which all American youth shall have an opportunity to go forward to useful and abundant lives.

"But this end cannot be achieved unless our American form of government and our American way of life are preserved. Surely this objective cannot be promoted by an organization which harbors within its ranks —and responds to the dictation of— groups inimical to American representative government and democracy, no matter what professions such an organization might make.

Unmindful of Indictment.

"You must be aware of the judgment passed on the American Youth congress by the Dies committee investigating un-American activities in its report to the house of representatives on Jan. 3, 1940. Tho a month has passed since that report was made, I have seen no indication from any officer of the American Youth congress that steps would be taken to purge the communistic organizations about which the Dies committee complained.

"According to the proceedings of the meeting of the American Youth congress held in New York last July —a document published by your organization — representatives of the American League for Peace and Democracy, American Student union, International Workers order, youth section; National Negro congress; Spanish Refugee Relief campaign, youth division; Young Communist league, Southern Negro Youth congress, and the Workers' alliance participated in that meeting.

Quotes Dies Report.

"There is no dispute that the Young Communist league is an integral part of the communist party in this country, which, it has been shown, is directed from Moscow. According to the official proceedings of the July, 1939, meeting—published by your organization—Gilbert Green, national secretary of the Young Communist league and a member of the secretariat of the Young Communist International, is quoted in opposition to a resolution condemning communism, Naziism, and Fascism, as saying that 'It is a move to destroy the congress.'

"This proposal to 'condemn communism, Naziism, and Fascism as forms of government equally oppressive of human rights and liberties was defeated by the American Youth congress by a vote of 23 to 713.

"As to the other organizations listed above as participating in the July, 1939 meeting, the Dies committee in its Jan. 3, 1940, report to congress stated that they could be properly classified as front organizations of the communist party.'"

New York Starts Drive For Nat'l Negro Congress

N. Y. Council Pushes Drive for Large Delegation: Baker Stresses Burning Issues Before Negro People on War, Lynching, Unemployment

The Greater New York Council of the National Negro Congress will begin preparations this week for a large New York delegation to the Third National Congress which will be held in Washington April 26, 27, 28. At a preliminary meeting of community and civic leaders held Saturday at the Harlem YWCA, plans were adopted for an intensive drive to secure delegates from the various local organizations.

Outlining the vital issues affecting the Negro people of Harlem James H. Baker, head of the New York Council, stressed the widespread unemployment among Harlem citizens, the fight for jobs and against bad housing conditions, as key problems requiring consistent and united action on the part of all organizations and individuals.

Assailing the Dies Committee as a threat to American democracy and the rights of minority groups, Stanley M. Isaacs, Borough President of Manhattan, urged the more than fifty community leaders present at the meeting to redouble their efforts in the fight to safeguard the democratic rights of all the people which are now under fire by the reactionaries.

HITS WAR DRIVE

He pointed out that the drive toward war, if not checked by the people, would result in the destruction of civil and democratic rights of minorities as well as the majority of the American people.

Other Negro Community figures who emphasized the need of a national gathering of the Negro people to discuss their plight and to draw up plans of action for 1940, were Dr. Charles A. Petione and Judge Myles A. Paige.

Representatives of organizations who pledged their support of the National Negro Congress, made concrete proposals for a concerted drive against high rents, crime and delinquency, education and the right to work.

A meeting of the Council to work out final plans for a monster mass meeting to be held March 13th on education, relief and housing, will be held at 8:30 tonight at the Harlem Art Center, 290 Lenox Ave.

The mass meeting will be sponsored jointly by the Congress and several other organizations.

ichigan A. F. L. ndorses Negro ongress Call

tion of Unanimous Support Hails Plea of egro Group for Unity With White Labor In Struggle Against Reaction

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BATTLE CREEK, Mich., Feb. 21.—Unanimous endorsement to the forthcoming Third National Negro Congress was voted here at the annual convention of the Michigan State Federation of Labor representing 65,000 unionists.

The Call for the Congress, which will be held in Washington in the auditorium of the United States Department of Labor on April 26, 27 and 28, was mailed to thousands of organizations throughout the country last week.

The Call stated that the job of the Congress is "to unite the Negro people as never before in a struggle to beat back the attacks upon us. Our job is to join with the great labor movement and the many progressive minded white Americans in a combined effort to defend democracy in America. We are not just beginning this job. The first and second congresses have shown America that through unity real victories can be won for the Negro people. We need more such victories. And we will win them through unity."

Install New Officers of Chicago Negro Congress

Ceremony Part of Preparations for 3rd National Convention; Mrs. Lillian Summers Elected President; George McCray Re-elected

(Special to the Sunday Worker)

CHICAGO, March 9.—New officers of the Chicago Council of the National Negro Congress were installed here in the midst of preparations for the Third National Convention in Washington, D. C., on April 26-28.

Mrs. Lillian Summers, prominent social worker who is district officer for the United Charities and a Hull House resident, was elected president. Mrs. Summers was educated at Boston University and at the University of Chicago.

Elected as vice-president was Mrs. Faith Jefferson Jones, an official of the Chicago Relief Administration. Mrs. Jones was the wife of the late Dewey R. Jones, one-time editor of the Chicago Defender and president of the Congress at the time of his death last year.

Another vice-president is Dean H. M. Smith, director of the National Baptist Institute. His successful fight to prevent the segregation of Negro delegates att he International Convention of Baptists at Atlanta brought him nationwide attention. Elected also for a second term as executive secretary is George McCray, fellow of the Julius Rosenwald Fund.

A. Philip Randolph Has Thrust Past Gauntlet Of Despair as Organized Labor Trail Blazer

By CHARLES ALEXANDER
(Crusader News Agency)

At the National Negro Congress convention two years ago, a tall and commanding man rose to speak. A thunder of applause greeted him. Then there was complete silence.

Three thousand persons, black and white, eagerly awaited his message. "... Let us build a united front of all Negro organizations, of varying strata, purpose and outlook. Let us build a united front in cooperation with the progressive and liberal agencies of the nation whose interests are common with Black America. . ."

HAD HARD LOT

The throng cheered, whistled, stamped. They were paying tribute to A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, pioneer in the struggle for equality and the rights of black wage earners.

Taught in the hard school of experience, A. Philip Randolph has had intimate knowledge of the intolerance and discrimination that confronts his people. As a youth he worked at all kinds of menial occupations, thus he early knew what "Negro Jobs" meant, as well as the lot of black workers.

His first attempt to improve conditions for colored wage earners occurred a few years before the last war, when, as a waiter on a Fall River Line shop he organized a protest against the miserable living quarters which the waiters called the "Glory Hole." He was promptly fired. The experience was invaluable to young Randolph though it meant temporary worry over the problem of eating regularly.

America's declaration of war lifted Randolph to leadership. Then as now opposition to reaction called for courage and fortitude; and Randolph had both. He proposed common action of black and white workers against the war, and urged his people to take full advantage of their position in the mass-production industries and in the Army to force correction of their worst abuses, even if it meant strikes and resistance to the draft.

Seizing upon the "democratic aims" for which the war was supposedly waged, he insisted the government begin its rescue work at home, and called for an end to the intolerable conditions which submerged his people.

The militant views of the young "revolutionist" clashed with the doctrines of the "old, reactionary leaders." While they conditional social, political and economic equality. He was branded a "radical" and forced to resign the editorship of "The Hotel Messenger," organ of the Headwaiters and Sidewaiters Society of New York.

ARRESTED IN 1918

Undaunted, Randolph together with Chandler Owens launched a new magazine, "The Messenger." The Luck Committee later declared the journal "by far the most dangerous of all Negro publications."

Under Randolph's leadership the magazine became a potent factor in stirring the Negro people. Through its pages he lashed out at the war, and urged black workers to join trade unions wherever possible. His firm stand led to his arrest in Cleveland June, 1918, by the Department of Justice, but after serving a few days in the city jail he was released. He continued to oppose the war and to fight for full equality.

In addition to editing "The Messenger" Randolph devoted much time to the labor movement. In 1917, he organized a union of elevator operators and starters which later disintegrated. He also attempted to unionize shipyard workers in the tidewater area of Virginia but the ruthless intimidation of the workers by the ship owners prevented success.

The daring young leader refused to be discouraged; his resolution to lift black wage earners from economic morass had become an obsession. He launched several campaigns chiefly among laundry workers, motion picture operators, garment and building workers, bakers and confectioners.

HIS MAIN BOUT

These early efforts were but the preliminaries before the main bout which Randolph undertook in 1925 when he moved to organize the Pullman Porters. In August of that year he and a small group of men met at a dingy hall in Harlem. All except Randolph were employees of the Pullman Company. Nevertheless by speaking to dozens of porters and by studying their problems he was quite familiar with their needs.

The men showed their confidence when they elected him president and general organizer of the union which as yet existed only on paper. "The Messenger" now became the organ of the embryonic organization.

The conditions of the porters were unbearable. They worked from 300 to 400 hours a month for wages of about $100 a month. They received less pay for overtime than for straight work, and they were required to buy their own uniforms, shoe polish, and incidentals. Tips which were generous in the lush days had dwindled considerably.

Despite discouraging predictions of critics who considered the Pullman Company an unbeatable foe, Randolph's patience, tenacity and hard work welded the porters together. As the union grew the company plotted to smash it. First it announced a wage increase, then it began to replace Negroes with Filipinos, and finally the corporation brought up its Big Bertha. It declared it would deal with the Brotherhood if the men would oust Randolph, "known socialist."

The porters were not swayed by the company's "offers," and Randolph, assisted by Ashley Totten, M. P. Webster, Bennie Smith, C. L. Dellums and others, all porters who were fired for union activity, worked day and night to build the Brotherhood.

STRIKE THREATENED

By 1928 the Brotherhood was ready to call a strike if the corporation refused to negotiate. But William Green, president of the A. F. of L. who up to that time had looked upon the porters campaign with apathy and had refused to grant the union an international charter, "advise" against it.

Simultaneously the Order of Sleeping Car Conductors frowned upon the Brotherhood's activities. Though cancellation of the strike temporarily set back the union, Randolph drove ahead, and by 1934 he forced inclusion of the porters in the new provisions that were written in the Railway Act of 1926.

Randolph now called for a vote to be supervised by the National Mediation Board to determine whether the porters desired the Brotherhood to represent them for collective bargaining purposes. The vote was a huge victory for the Brotherhood, 5,931 against 1,422 for the company union. Randolph had achieved the "impossible."

Armed with this mandate A. Philip Randolph demanded a contract of the Pullman Company. Their terms included a 20 per cent wage increase, reduction in the monthly mileage requirements from 11,000 to 7,000 miles, and 240 hour work month. The company fumed and gathered its high-priced lawyers, but Randolph was adamant and the porters won.

But while Randolph's dream was fulfilled, his work was unfinished. He now blistered the A. F. of L.'s jim-crow policy and launched a vigorous campaign for admission of Negroes to all its locals. He hailed the birth of the Congress for Industrial Organization in 1937, as heralding a new day for Negro wage earners.

As head of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and president of the National Negro Congress, he is firmly convinced that "only solidarity can save the black and white workers of America, and this white, Jew and Gentile, native and foreign-born."

Lewis Tells National Negro Congress He Believes In Equality Of Opportunity

Denounces Lynching And Poll Tax Through Federal Legislation

Says Twelve Millions Unemployed

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—"I do not know what gives me more pleasure than to be presented with a gift that reveals to me what is in your hearts. Greater than silver or gold or pearls of great value is the respect and esteem of one's fellow man. The things that one remembers is not the amount of money or material compensation but rather that day when he received the thanks and appreciation for something he had done for them."

So said John L. Lewis, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations at the third annual National Negro congress, Friday night, in the Department of Labor auditorium, when he received a plaque for the work he had done in behalf of workers.

"I am one American, who believe in equality of opportunity for Negro people and I don't try to conceal that fact," Mr. Lewis continued. "I am doing what I can to educate them on that point and I want the help and cooperation of Negroes.

"The only way they can better their lot is through organization. Then only through the power of organization can he help his family and people. Carry the word of organization back to your people."

At the time, he was photographed with two Negro miners. Thomas Stark of Ohio and Milford Jackson of Pennsylvania, receiving the plaque of honor.

However, this speech was made following the radio talk in which Mr. Lewis blasted the New Deal and scored them for the broken promises they made to labor in the 1936 elections. Mr. Lewis was bitter in his denunciation and there was no mistaking the pointedness of his remarks.

Demanding the elimination of poll taxes and the elimination of lynching through federal legislation, he made a direct appeal for the support of labor as one of the factors through which this could be accomplished.

He also demanded that the U. S. stay out of war and said the present administration is seeking to obscure knotty unsolved domestic problems by directing emphasis on foreign crises.

"We of labor call upon other groups of American citizens" he said, "interested in the common welfare to join in demanding that the political leaders of the nation stand by and deliver or give way to those who can."

"I appreciate deeply the honor of being invited to address this assembly of American citizens," said Mr. Lewis in his opening remarks. "The Negro people have a growing importance and place in American life. The great contribution made by Negro leaders to American life in the past and the even greater contributions that will come in the future emphasize the significance of your fine gathering. I am glad to have this opportunity to pay tribute to these accomplishments.

THE WASHINGTON CONGRESS

Echoes from the National Negro Congress sessions held in Washington, D. C., during the last days of April reverberate throughout the land. The leading white dailies have been forced to give more attention to this event than is usually given to the proceedings of constructive Negro organizations. The Negro press itself, has treated the gathering extensively. It could not be otherwise. The National Negro Congress cannot be ignored. It is impossible today to ignore the vital issues which confront our race. It was these issues that the Washington congress debated.

Today, no gathering of serious-minded progressive Americans can take place without the introduction of the problems which so peculiarly affect Black men and women. These are American problems. They have been such since the dawn of the United States. The deliberations around the creation of the Declaration of Independence dealt with slavery and its consequences.

The discussions about the Negro question today flow from those consequences. The so-called Negro problem is a consequence of slavery and particularly of the failure to root up the remnants of slavery in our country.

The problems cannot be called the concern of only certain Americans. They are the concern of all of us. Certainly the existence of peonage, of share-cropping, of the poll tax which disfranchises millions of poor whites as well as Negroes, of lynching and segregation, cannot be said to challenge only Black men and women.

If democracy is to become the measure of our relations, those un-American and undemocratic institutions which curse our land must be removed. We are forced by the very nature of things to take a position one way or another regarding those people who seek to maintain the institutions of segregation, jim-crowism, lynching, peonage, share-cropping, the poll tax and all other discriminating practices.

The National Negro Congress has challenged these un-American institutions and their promoters and supporters. There can be no doubt that those who support the most un-democratic practices in American life, will today attack every progressive stand by labeling it "Red." It is unfortunate that this is so. But certainly this line of attack reveals the utter bankruptcy spiritually and politically of the attackers.

The National Negro Congress has a great place in our life. So also, has the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and all other organizations committed to a relentless struggle to secure for us the blessings of democracy.

The N.A.A.C.P. is not a Negro organization. White leaders have occupied high positions in it since its beginning. There can be no purely Negro or white organizations which seriously deal with national problems. Objections to whites in such an organization as the National Negro Congress or the N.A.A.C.P. can only be a cover. The real objections to the Congress will appear when it begins to carry some of its very excellent resolutions into life.

But regardless of the opposition to the Congress, we must frankly say lynching must go. So must the poll tax. And democracy must become a reality. Our country cannot remain half slave and half free today any more than it could in the time of Lincoln.

When the Negro Congress says it will support no political parties which do not stand for a consistent fight for the vote for the Negro of the South, we can say nothing less than Amen.

It is time we built those organizations which will not compromise issues of human welfare. It is time we took a stand to make Black men first class American citizens.

BROOKLYN COUNCIL, NEGRO CONGRESS OPPOSES BURKE-WADSWORTH BILL FOR CONSCRIPTION; PLANS PEACE CONFAB

Taking the stand that passage of the Burke-Wadsworth legislation now before Congress which seeks a conscripted army would result in serious curtailment of civil liberties as far as Negroes are concerned, a number of Negro citizens of Brooklyn, have backed the action of the Brooklyn Council of the National Negro Congress, recommending that the national body oppose the pending legislation at the coming Chicago Peace Conference to be held August 31, September 1st and 2nd.

The resolution adopted by the Brooklyn organization also asks for the Conference's support of a Congressional showdown on the Anti-Lynch bill, the Anti-Poll Tax Bills and other social legislation.

Names and affiliations of some of those backing the Congress are Martha Alexander, United Office and Professional Workers' Union; Virginia Anderson, Youth Division, NAACP; the Rev. Reginald Bass, pastor, Brooklyn Community Church; Dr. George T. Bynoe, Robert A. Campbell, Executive Board, Brooklyn Council, National Negro Congress; Dorothy Challenor, Arthur L. Comither, Executive Secretary, Carlton Avenue YMCA; Dorothy K. Funn, Executive Secretary, Brooklyn Council, NNC; Ewart Guinier, SCMWA State Council; Dr. Horace I. Hamlett, Ann Arnold Hedgeman, Executive Secretary, Ashland Place YWCA; Priscilla Jackson, Business and Professional Women, YWCA; Att'y Thomas R. Jones, chairman, New York Division, American Youth Congress, Executive Board of Brooklyn Youth Federation; Dr. Thomas Jones, Sr.; Ida B. Kelso, Vice-President, Round Table Republican Club; Dr. Adrian Lamos, Louis Manning, Executive Board, Transport Workers' Union, Maintenance Division, BMT; Malcolm G. Martin, National Negro Congress, Brooklyn Council, president; Dr. Lionel Richardson, Cressie Roberts, Local 3, International Bakers' and Confectioners' Union, AFL; Jessie Scott, Secretary, Girls' Work, Ashland Place YWCA; Rev. R. Leo Soaries, pastor, Christian Fellowship Church; Patricia Williams, Chairman, Brooklyn Youth Federation; Courtenay Wiltshire, Jr., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

Plans Launched For Third National Negro Congress

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The mid-winter meeting of the executive board of the National Negro Congress which met here Sunday completed plans for the holding of the Third National Negro Congress in the city of Washington on April 26, 27, 28, 1940. The Negro Congress body also scored the activity of the Dies Committee and openly charged Martin Dies, the Texas congressman who is chairman of the committee with covering up the un-American activities of the Ku Klux Klan.

The meeting of Congress officials was attended by representatives of more than a score of local councils from the middle West East and South. A. Phillip Randolph, national president of the organization, presided at the meeting and pledged his organization to a ceaseless fight against the hunger, joblessness and lynch terror inflicted upon the Negro People.

Congress officials estimate that 3,000 delegates will be in attendance at their third national meetings. Previous congress in Chicago have drawn between 1,500 and 2,000 delegates as well as several thousand observers.

In a statement unamiously approved by members of the national board the National Negro Congress gave the lie to Martin Dies accusations that the Congress was un-American. The statement exposed the fact that the Dies Committee has consistently refused to permit Congress officials to testify.

The full text of the statement follows:

STATEMENT of the NATIONAL BOARD of the NATIONAL NEGRO CONGRESS on THE DIES COMMITTEE

On January 3, 1940 the congressional investigating committee on un-American activities, whose chairman is Martin Dies of Texas. made its second report to the United States House of Representatives. Continuing what the President of the United States has already denounced as its "sordid procedure" of smearing progressive organizations, the Committee declared that the National Negro Congress might properly be classified as a "Communist Front Organization."

For the great majority of thinking Americans—Negro and white—all statements coming from this Committee are open to question because of the frequency with which its charges have been discredited. But for the sake of the record we take the occasion of our national board meeting to brand the unsupported statements of this Committee as a vicious and fantastic lie.

We here reaffirm the basic principles enunciated at both the first and second National Negro Congress meetings, which continue to define our fundamental policy. First, we are absolutely committed to the principles of American democracy, our sole purpose being to extend the application of those principles especially to the Negro people. Second, because of our allegiance to the principles of democracy, we necessarily oppose dictatorship as a form or process of government. Third, although we welcome the support of all groups which are in harmony with our program for the Negro people, we insist absolutely that, now and in the future, as in the past, the formulation and execution of that program shall not be dominated by any one political, religious, or other social group.

It will be revealing of the true character of this Committee for us to point out the undemocratic methods by which it arrived at the conclusion that the National Negro Congress was a so-called Communist Front. In the first year of its existence the Dies Committee held hearings open to the public. At none of these hearings was there a single word mentioned about the National Negro Congress. At no time during the whole period of its investigations did this Committee call before it any officer of the Congress or make any request of it for information. Yet it permitted one Walter S. Steele to file in writing and without cross-examination a statement about the Congress so ridiculous that even a person unfamiliar with the Congress would recognize its falsity. This unsupported statement of Walter Steele, who among other organizations of an unsavory character claime dto be representing the United Sons and Daughters of the Confederacy—was made the basis of the Committee's charges against the Congress last year. These charges were immediately denied by us in a registered letter sent to the Speaker of teh House of Representatives. In that letter we requested the privilege of appearing in person before the Committee to submit ourselves to any questioning they might care to make. In addition the National Secretary of our organization was given the verbal assurance of Representative Dempsey—a member of the Committee—that we would be given opportunity to refute these charges.

On September 9, 1939, Mr. Rhea Whitley, General Counsel for the Committee requested the National Secretary of the Congress to accept a subpoena calling for him to testify on September 26. The subpoena was accepted and this national officer was ready to submit fully to the questioning by the Committee. But for reasons best known to the Committee—and particularly to Martin Dies—our National Secretary was never given the opportunity of appearing before the Committee. On the evening of the 25th of September our national secretary was given to understand by an unidentified woman over the telephone that his appearance would be postponed. When Attorney Whitley was reached by phone he promised to give us notice within a week as to the exact time when our national secretary would be heard. Mr. Whitley did not have the common courtesy generally practiced by counsel for congressional committees to advise us when we would be heard. He never again communicated with the Congress. Efforts to straighten out the matter of the appearance of our representative with Martin Dies — by phone resulted in Mr. Dies using obscene and vituperative language insulting to the Negro race and to the high office of member of the United States House of Representatives.

The question which arises from this recital will be clear to the American People: Why did Martin Dies refuse to hear the testimony of an official of the National Negro Congress? Was it because Mr. Dies felt he might be the one to be embarrassed rather than our representative? Was it because Dies knew he could not escape having brought out in the open the fact that he has persistently ignored requests that he investigate the un-American Ku Klux Klan? Was it because Mr. Dies is afraid of the persistent and ugly rumor that he is himself a member of the Ku Klux Klan? Was it because Mr. Dies knew he had not one scintilla of evidence against the National Negro Congress --and preferred instead to make a last desperate effort to besmirch our reputation by a repetition of wild and unsupported charges of Communist influence? The American People are fully able to draw their own conclusions from Mr. Dies strange actions.

On the final day of the hearings before the Dies Committee—too late for our organization to demand the right to be heard—Martin Dies summoned to Washington —one William Nowell—branded as a stool pigeon and labor spy in the employ of the automobile manufacturers of Detroit. Nowell —with fitting pomp—declared under oath that he had been one of the chief organizers of the Congress and that he had been a Communist and knew that the Congress was controlled by Communists. We have already in a previous statement exposed the falsity of these charges. It is sufficient to point out here that Mr. Nowell—was never an official or member of any Committee of any Congress body locally or nationally. That he was not a delegate to eitner our first or second congress meetings. That he did not produce one single shred of evidence to support his perjured statements.

But in this statement we must go further. We must point out to the American People that the unsuccessful attempt of the Dies Committee to smear the national Negro Congress is only one link in the chain of reactionary forces in America who seek to throttle freedom of speech and to destroy the democratic rights of the Negro People vouchsafed us by the Constitution and laws of the United States. We cal lon the United States Congress to repudiate and abolish the Dies Committee. We call upon the American People to denounce the star-chamber procedures of this committee. We serve notice on Martin Dies and his friends of the Ku Klu Klan that we will not be stopped in our struggle to win economic freedom and democracy for the 15,000,000 Negro Americans in our land. And we leave the American People to judge by our deeds whether it is we or the Dies Committee who are un-American.

300 Negro Youth Expected To Attend Youth Congress Feb. 9

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(SNS)—The national Capitol will play host to one of the largest interracial youth gatherings ever to be held there when several thousand young people, including a probable 300 Negroes from both North and South, participate in a Citizenship Institute sponsored by the American Youth Congress February 9 to 12.

The Citizenship Institute, starting on February 9th, and ending appropriately, on Lincoln's birthday, will attempt to give young people an insight into how the American Government is equipped to meet the needs of its people, and will emphasize the practice of good citizenship in the Lincoln tradition.

The three days of the Institute will be spent in general sessions discussing the problems of jobs for young people, civil liberties, and officials and Congressmen will be on keeping out of war. Government officials and Congressmen will be on hand at all sessions to present the approach of the Administration to these questions.

The Institute opens Friday, February 9 with a Lincoln Memorial meeting. The chief speakers for this occasion will be James Carey, National Secretary of the C.I.O., U. S. Attorney Gen. Robert Jackson, and Edward E. Strong, executive secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress who will speak on Lincoln's contribution to civil right and the task of young people in preserv ing these rights.

President Roosevelt will address the gathering after a parade to the White House Saturday morning. Among the banners carried in the parade will be a number bearing the slogans, "Equal Opportunity for Negro Youth"! "Pass the Anti-Lynching Bill", and "Live the American Way—Equal Rights for All."

In view of the experience of other such gatherings in "Jim Crow" Washington, ample housing arrangements are being made in advance for all who are expected to attend. Meals for the delegates participating in the Citizenship Institute have been arranged at the Government Cafeteria where no discrimination will be practiced.

A leading paticipant in the institute among the several hundred Negro young people will be Miss Harriet Pickens of the New York Y.W.C.A. who will act as chairman at the Sunday session on Civil Liberties and Citizenship. Among the Negro youth groups which are sending delegates to the Institute are the Washington Youth Federation, the Illinois Negro Youth Conference, the Southern Negro Youth Congress, the student body of West Virginia State College, and the Harlem Negro Youth Conference.

President To Address Huge Gathering

Honor Leaders of the National Negro Congress

The above photograph was taken at a testimonial dinner given by the National Negro Congress in Washington for A. Phillip Randolph, Negro labor leader and president of the Congress. The dinner was in preparation for the third National Negro Congress which will take place in Washington, D. C., April 26, 27 and 28. Left to right the persons are: John P. Davis, National Executive Secretary of the Congress. Kathryn Lewis, daughter of John L. Lewis, and Randolph.

AFL Hotel Union Endorses Nat'l Negro Congress

Senator Wheeler Sends Congratulations to Third National Negro Congress; Southern Churchmen Attend

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Representing 5,250 members of the Pee Dee Conference of African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Mrs. Julia Baum of West Columbia, South Carolina, had the distinction last week of being the first delegate out of an expected 3,000 to send in her credentials to the Third National Negro Congress to be held here April 26 to 28.

Mrs. Shaw is district secretary of the Camden-Columbia District of the A.M.E. Zion Church Christian Education Department.

The Joint Board of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers International Alliance and Bartenders League of America, representing 13 local unions with a combined membership of 40,000 food workers, endorsed the Third National Negro Congress at its session here last week. About one-fourth of the members of these unions is Negro.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—National Negro Congress officials announced here this week the receipt of a congratulatory letter and a financial contribution to its work from Senator Burton K. Wheeler, Democrat from Montana.

Senator Wheeler has become increasingly spoken of as the next nominee of the Democratic Party for President of the United States in the 1940 elections.

Negro Leader Blasts War as Imperialist

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

Dr. Yargan Opens Congress in Phila.; Calls War 'By Right Name'

OCT 30 1940

(Special to the Daily Worker)

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 29.—Declaring that "we in the National Negro Congress are not afraid to call this war what it really is—an imperialist war," Dr. Max Yergan, chairman of the N. N. C., opened the Pennsylvania State Convention of that organization and repeated the resolution adopted by the Third National Convention of the N. N. C., which declared:

"The National Negro Congress declares that the Negro people have everything to lose and nothing to gain by American involvement in the imperialist war."

Dr. Yergen, Joseph Curran, president of the National Maritime Union; Frederick Holmes, of the Pittsburgh Council of the N. N. C., and Congressman Joseph P. McGrarery were the principal speakers at the opening meeting of the convention last Saturday in McDowell Community Church.

The last-named's attempt to justify Roosevelt's endorsement of Jim Crow in the army met an unfavorable reception from the audience.

Joseph Curran outlined to the delegates the role that the labor movement must play in aiding the struggle of the Negro people.

"We in the National Maritime Union have always stood four-square against discrimination on jobs because of race, color or creed," he asserted.

In a panel session of the convention devoted to a discussion of political parties, Mother Ella Reeve Bloor Ohmbolt, Communist candidate for Congress from Pennsylvania's Second District, spoke, advancing her Party's program to aid the economic status of both Negroes and whites and abolish the poll tax in the South.

NEGRO CONGRESS CALLS PARLEY ON HARLEM SLUM CONDITIONS

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

NOV 14 1940

Aroused over the criminal death of Dorothea Daniels, six-month-old infant bitten by a rat, the National Negro Congress has issued a call to the Negro people of New York to support a state-wide housing conference to be held Nov. 16 and 17 at Park Palace, 5 West 110th St.

Announcing the conference by means of a leaflet depicting the horrible attack on the Negro infant in a Harlem slum, the handbill states: "A landlord killed this baby. She would not be dead if she had not been living in a rat-infested tenement. A rat bite caused her death."

The National Negro Congress places the blame for the infant's death on city and state authorities.

"Don't blame the rat," declares the leaflet. "Blame the landlords who refuse to repair fire-traps rented the Negro people. Blame the Mayor and City Officials of your community who refuse to enforce health and housing laws. Blame the Governor and State Legislature who — despite the fact that the criminal condition of Negro housing in the state has been known to them for years—have not taken steps to end these horrible conditions."

The Daniels infant died on Sept. 19 after she had been ill for three months due to the bite. She was buried in Potter's Field since Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Daniels and family are living on relief. The parents of the child were not informed of the infant's death and only learned that the child had passed away when the authorities informed them that she was already dead.

The three other children in the Harvey family are Berenice, 18 months; Theresa, 4 years old and Harvey, 3 years old. When the infant died the authorities threatened to reduce the measly relief allowance since there was one mouth less to feed.

The Workers Alliance has since won clothing for the family, has forced the authorities to turn on the gas and electric that had been turned off due to non-payment and has received assurance that the Daniels family will be allowed to remain in New York City, since it is up from Washington, D. C., about eight months.

NOV 11 1940

The National Negro Congress call for better housing summoned all Negro organizations throughout the state to send representatives to the conference in order to wage an effective fight against slum housing which the Negro people are forced to live.

Negroes Ask Place On Supreme Court Bench, F.D.R. Staff

NOV 18 1940

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17—(AP)—The National Negro Council asked Sunday that the next Supreme Court vacancy be filled by a Negro and that President Roosevelt appoint a Negro as one of his six White House secretaries.

The proposals were made in a resolution adopted at a convention of the council. The convention was called by the United Government Employes, Inc., leaders of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the National Baptist Convention, Inc.

The resolution also endorsed "all aid" to Britain, urged that all Negro army reserve officers be called to active duty and placed in command of the four Negro regiments of the regular army, and proposed appointment of a Negro civilian aid to the secretary of the navy.

Negro Congress Bids For Holiday Rush Jobs

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

The National Negro Congress has opened three job registration centers to aid Negroes in securing jobs in department stores of the city during the holiday rush. The centers, which are being sponsored by the continuation committee of the First State Conference of the congress, will open for registration tomorrow (Friday). They are at 501 south 16th street; Wharton Settlement, 1708 north 22nd street; and Mutual Association of Postal Employees, 3942 Brown street.

NOV 14 1940

Negro Congress State Conference Opens Here Today

Daily Worker
New York, N.Y.

NOV 16 1940

Panels to Discuss Jobs, Housing and Fight Against Discrimination—Marcantonio, Dr. Yergan, John P. Davis, Others to Speak

Outstanding Negro and white leaders will address the New York State Conference of the National Negro Congress opening today at the Park Palace, 5 W. 110th St., on the subjects of jobs, housing and equal rights.

Delegates from all sections of the state, representing trade unions, civic, political, religious and fraternal organizations will hear Congressman Vito Marcantonio; Max Yergan, national president of the National Negro Congress; Dr. Walter S. Neff, executive secretary of the New York Council of the American Peace Mobilization; Hope Stevens, president of the Manhattan Council of the National Negro Congress; Rabbi Moses Miller, president of the Jewish People's Committee; Tom Jones, chairman of the New York Youth Congress and others.

The two-day conference opens this morning at 11 A. M. and 1 P. M. will hear Malcolm Martin, president of the Brooklyn Council speak on "The Negro People Want the Right to Live." Hope Stevens will act as chairman.

JOB PANEL

The panel on jobs will start at 2:30 P. M. at which Winifred Norman, vice-chairman of the Harlem Youth Congress will act as chairman and Louis T. Burnham, national youth secretary of the National Negro Congress will make the report. A two hour discussion period by delegates will follow the report.

At 6 P. M. the problem of the Negro draftee will be discussed by Tom Jones and Jessie Scott, girls work secretary of the Ashland Place YWCA, will act as chairman. Delegates are allowed an hour and a half for discussion after this report.

On Sunday at 11 A. M., Alfred K. Stern, former member of the Chicago Housing Authority will chair the subject of Housing as William Gaulden, organizer of the State County and Municipal Workers Union makes the report. Cyril Philips of the West Indian Committee will also speak on Jim-Crowism in National Defense.

The afternoon session will hear Rev. John W. Robinson, Dr. Walter S. Neff, Rabbi, Moses Miller, Rep. Marcantonio, John P. Davis and Dr. Max Yergan.

The final session Sunday evening at 6 o'clock will hear the reports of the credentials, resolutions, auditing and presiding commitees.

Wants Race To Assume Leadership In Forming Second Major Political Group

Courier

Max Yergan, Addressing 300 Delegates, Said Recent Election Proved There Is Now Only One Major Party In United States—Raps Both Dems and G.O.P.

Pittsburgh, Pa.,

NOV 30 1940

By MORGEN S. JENSEN
(Staff Correspondent)

NEW YORK, Nov. 28—Dr. Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress, last week issued a call to Negroes to take leadership in the formation of a second major political party, "because the recent election proved there is now only one major party in the United States," in an address to 300 delegates at the closing session of the New York State conference of the congress in the Park palace, 5 West 110th street.

Both the Republicans and Deemocrats were attacked by Dr. Yergan because neither party, he claimed, offered anything constructive to domestic problems. Particularly, he said, neither promised to eliminate the major problems before Negroes today . . unemployment, bad housing, poll taxes in the South, Jim Crowism and discrimination in National Defense industries.

"We need no lessons in patriotism and Americanism from the propagandists who would have us fight on the side of imperialistic Britain," he declared. "Our fight in these crucial times is for the establishment of a great, powerful democracy at home that no nation will dare attack."

A delegation was appointed to go before Governor Lehman with a request that all available money be spent for low rent housing for Negroes. The conference resolved also to send a protest to President Roosevelt against Jim Crowism in the armed forces of the United States.

Negro Congress Disclaims FD Note

Amsterdam News

DEC 28 1940

The National Negro Congress, Manhattan Council with headquarters at 200 West 135th St. this week disclaimed any responsibility for the issuance of a leaflet embodying a "telegram sent to Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, Washington, D. C., signed, "E. C. Goode, Secretary", and bear-

FIGHT UNFAIR LANDLORDS

DEC 7 1940

Daily Worker, N.Y.

Members of the temporary steering committee of the newly organized National Negro Congress Tenants' League which met on Thanksgiving day in the Negro congress office to form plans for protection of tenants against unfair landlords. Seated at the desk are: Ishmael P. Flory, field organizer of the congress, and Mrs. Eugenia Ivy, temporary chairman of the league. Standing, left to right are, Mrs. Evelyn McDowell, temporary chairman of the league; Ben Forest, Joseph Johnson, chairman of the congress housing committee; Miss Mary Thompson and Philip Terry.

ing the footnote "approved by Dr. Max Yergan."

Hope R. Stevens, President, Manhattan Council, announced that the use of the name of the National President of the National Negro Congress thereon was unauthorized and without his approval, knowledge, or consent.

The Fight of the Negro People for Democracy

"DEMOCRACY AND THE NEGRO PEOPLE." Address by Dr. Max Yergan, President of the National Negro Congress. Published by the National Negro Congress, 717 Florida Avenue N.W., Washington, D. C. Pamphlet, 3 cents.

NOV 6 1940

By Elizabeth Lawson

These last months have been busy ones for the misleaders of the Negro people. They must attempt to convince the American Negroes that Britain is fighting a war for democracy, and that America should help. This is the tune repeated, with variations, by A. Philip Randolph, of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; by William Pickens, Sr., Roy Wilkins, and Walter White, of the N.A.A.C.P.; by W. A. Domingo, West Indian import-export merchant, and countless others.

Theirs is no easy task. The present generation of Negroes has already been through one imperialist war; there were seductive promises in exchange for their cooperation, and every one of these promises has been broken. The pro-British stand of A. Philip Randolph, for example, was emphatically rejected by the National Negro Congress at the very time when he was its president. The job of the misleaders is made no easier by the administration's announcement of a deliberate continuation of army Jim-Crowism, nor by the denial of jobs to Negroes in the giant factories which are today subsidized by government contracts and favors, nor by the side-tracking of the anti-lynch bill to make way for "defense" legislation.

Negro Sentiment Against War

The sentiment of the Negro people, like that of the American people generally, is overwhelmingly against our involvment in this war. But that will count for very little unless the sentiment is organized. The Negro Congress is one very important vehicle for such organization. And in the midst of intricate discussions of Britain as the "better oppressor" and of American Jim-Crowism as the "lesser evil," this speech of Dr. Max Yergan—which is at the same time a reiteration of the policy of the National Negro Congress which he heads—is a refreshing exposition of the true character of the war, and of the hypocrisy of pretending that it is democratic struggle. The address was delivered in October, in Kansas City, Missouri, at a meeting sponsored by the Church League for Industrial Democracy at the general convention of the Episcopal Church.

Using the demand for the promotion of Negro army officers and so on, as a bargaining point with the government, the Negro misleaders promise in return to deliver their people to the war machine. Now, the fight for the abolition of Jim-Crow restrictions of every kind in the army deserves the support of all progressives; it is a measure for equal rights for Negroes, and it is a measure for the democratization of the armed forces. "It is essential," says Dr. Yergan, "that with defense plans already far advanced, Negroes be given equal opportunity to share in the training and job program created under these plans." But he declares also: "Among some Negro spokesmen and in some Negro circles there is a disposition to regard the chief issue in our relation to the war as one of securing the more lucrative positions for a relatively small number of Negroes in the armament and war-making program . . . such a consideration should not make us unmindful and uncritical of the danger of involvement in the present war. Such involvement can solve no problems for the people of America."

NOV 6 1940

America as a Force for Peace

Dr. Yergan raises the slogan of "the indivisibility of democracy," and says: "Let America become a mighty force for peace throughout the world by becoming a great democracy here at home." The denial of equal rights to the Negro people is the greatest single blot on American democracy; and discrimination is being intensified rather than lessened as America becomes more deeply entangled in the conflict abroad. The American War for Independence, the American Civil War, brought a greater measure of democracy to the Negroes and to the people as a whole; but the war of 1917, the preparations for war today, have brought retrogression, for these are unjust, imperialist wars.

Mr. Yergan lists the most fundamental of those democratic rights which the Negro people have never attained: the right to work—"the social right to a job, as well as the right to a job for which one is by natural gifts and training best fitted"; the right to vote; the right to live, study, eat, drink, amuse oneself where one wishes.

Author Attacks Both Major Parties

How shall the Negro people gain these ends? In the 1940 election campaign, we have had the spectacle of each major party prohibiting the distribution of campaign literature which exposes the chauvinism of the other. This was a continuation of the "gentlemen's agreement" which has existed on the Negro question since the end of Reconstruction—here is a matter on which neither party dares to speak plainly, for it cuts too deeply into the whole fabric of exploitation. Dr. Yergan exposes the mutual whitewashing of the parties on this matter, by damning both. He declares:

To the two major parties of long standing, Negroes have this to say: "Since 1875 you have both permitted and given aid to the policy of Negro disfranchisement through the poll tax and other unconstitutional and illegal methods.

You have both permitted the crime of lynching to continue, by refusing to place an anti-lynching law on the statute books.

"You have both sanctioned widespread discrimination against Negroes in state and federal services and you have thereby endorsed the debasing practice of Jim-Crowism in America."

The program of the National Negro Congress, which Dr. Yergan explains in this speech, is to work with all the progressive groups and forces in America. He singles out the written agreement between his organization and Labor's Non-Partisan League as an outstanding example of fruitful cooperation.

day—unemployment, bad housing, poll taxes in the South, Jim Crowism and discrimination in national defense industries.

A delegation was appointed to go before Gov. Lehman with a request that all available money be spent for low rent housing for Negroes. The conference resolved also to send a protest to President Roosevelt against Jim Crowism in the armed forces of the United State

MAX YERGAN WANTS SECOND MAJOR PARTY

The Call Kansas City, Mo.

Calls Upon Negro to Take Lead in Formation of New Organization

NOV 29 1940

NEW YORK. — (ANP) — A call to Negroes to take leadership in the formation of a second major political party "because the recent election proved there is now only one major party in the United States," was made Tuesday by Dr. Max Yergan, president of the National Negro congress, to 300 delegates at the closing session of the New York conference of the congress.

Dr. Yergan attacked both the Republicans and Democrats because neither party, he said, offered anything constructive to domestic problems. Particularly, he said, neither promised to eliminate the major problems before Negroes to-

Negroes Answer Slander By Big Milk Companies

Borden and Sheffield Withdraw Services in Harlem

DEC 17 1940

The National Negro Congress, Manhattan Council, yesterday informed the Borden and Sheffield Farms Milk Companies that it would conduct a campaign in Harlem to boycott their products if measures were not taken immediately to restore milk routes there and to hire Negroes as collectors and in other branches of the industry.

Daily Worker

William Gaulden, secretary of the Continuations Committee of the N.N.C., in a letter to the two large milk firms referred to an article which appeared a week ago in the Amsterdam News which announced the curtailment in the milk service in Harlem.

POINTS TO SLANDER

The letter quoted the following slanderous content of the article which was based upon a Sheffield press release:

"Losses from robberies of their drivers had motivated the action."

The article, declared Mr. Gaulden in his letter to the milk companies, "is designed to give the impression that Harlem is an outlaw section of the city and that the Negro people are robbers and not worthy of the services of your milk company."

Negro Congress Demands Toilets At 'L' Stations

Chicago Sun

DEC 15 1940

Recognizing a burning community need, the National Negro Congress, in behalf of thousands of patrons of the Elevated Lines, demanded in a letter to the Chicago Rapid Transit company that the privies at the elevated stations that have been closed down in the Southside be immediately reopened in a sanitary and stenchless condition.

In the recent months, some six men's and ladies' rooms have been closed down by the Chicago Rapid Transit company, including, according to the information submitted to the Congress, stations from Forty-third street to Sixty-first street.. Even when such rooms were open, they were maintained in a most unsanitary and unpleasantly odorous condition, the Congress letter carrying the demand indicated.

The letter was addressed to Harry G. Hardin, general superintendent of the Rapid Transit company and a copy sent to Mayor Edward J. Kelly.

Further action by the Congress awaits the company's reply.

NEGROES APPROVE BID FROM LEWIS

Congress Scores Administration, Will Join Non-Partisan League

WASHINGTON, (AP)—The National Negro Congress condemned policies of the Roosevelt administration Sunday and accepted an invitation from John L. Lewis to join forces with Labor's Non-Partisan League.

The action was taken against the advice of A. Phillip Randolph of New York, president of the congress since it was organized in Chicago in 1936, who declined to stand for re-election as a result. Max Yeagan of New York, who had been vice president, was elected to succeed him.

Randolph warned against a tieup with any political organization and said the congress had accepted contributions from the Communist and CIO organizers. He termed this an unhealthy condition because "wherever you get your money, you get your ideas and control."

With only scattered "noes," the congress adopted a resolution criticizing government policies in foreign affairs and social fields and accusing the Roosevelt administration of abandoning a policy of "welfare of the people" in favor of "mobilization of America's resources of war."

Brown Opposes Move

Edgar G. Brown of Washington, president of the United Government Workers, appealed for support of President Roosevelt and was greeted with hisses and boos. He urged the congress to disregard "the white Communists in the audience."

"God help the Negro," he said, "if we do not stand by the policies of President Roosevelt who now has us at peace."

Lewis had invited the congress to unite with the league in an address Friday. Earlier in the month, the CIO chieftain had announced that unless the Democratic party nominated a presidential candidate and adopted a platform satisfactory to labor he would call a convention of various groups to "formulate a program that each and every American can support." He said then that he would invite several Negro groups.

The resolution for unity with the league headed by Lewis said that the Negro worker long had awaited "the extended hand of organized labor" and that the "Negro people should be happy to accept" Lewis' invitation "to come to a working agreement with the mighty forces of labor and go forward to victory."

Other resolutions denounced the Dies committee and called for anti-lynching legislation and abolition of poll taxes.

FOE OF REDS QUITS NEGRO LEADERSHIP

Randolph Refuses Re-election Because of Opposition to Accepting Communist Cash

OR FUNDS FROM THE C. I. O.

Convention of Congress Votes Condemnation of Roosevelt's Foreign Policies

WASHINGTON, April 28 (UP)—A. Phillip Randolph, president of the National Negro Congress, tonight refused re-election because of his opposition to accepting money from the Communist party and unions affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Earlier, the Congress condemned President Roosevelt's foreign policy after hissing and booing the Negro president of the Government Employes Union who defended the Chief Executive.

The Negro congress by an overwhelming majority approved a resolution charging that "the Roosevelt government" had reversed its policy from one of concern for the people's welfare to one of mobilization of America's resources for war and extension of trade advantages to the British and French, while slashing appropriations for WPA, neglecting to establish Federal health services and abandoning the housing program, all of which was described as "policy detrimental to the interests of the American people" and one which "brings us step by step closer to involvement in this imperialistic war."

Edgar Brown, president of the United Government Employes Union, protested at the resolution's critical references to Mr. Roosevelt, declaring:

"God help the Negro race if for any reason we do not stand by the policies of President Roosevelt."

Roosevelt Champion Hissed

Delegates began to hiss and boo, but Mr. Randolph silenced them by pounding with the gavel. Angered by the demonstration, Mr. Brown shouted:

"I speak for the Negro people, although probably not for some of the white Communists in the audience."

The delegates, over the opposition of Mr. Randolph, accepted the invitation of John L. Lewis to enter into a working agreement with his Labor's Non-Partisan League in the 1940 political campaign as a first step toward possible participation in a third party movement if the Democratic and Republican Presidential nominees and platforms are not satisfactory. The vote came on adoption of a resolution directing the appointment of five members to negotiate with Mr. Lewis.

"Five years of struggle teach us hat the further gains for our people depend upon two factors," the resolution said. "One, the degree of unity and collaboration which we can create amongst the Negro people and their organizations on the basis of a common unifying program; and, two, the degree which our united Negro peoples' movement is linked with and collaborates with the movements and organizations of its friends and allies—the trade unions, the youth movement, the farmers and all other progressive and liberal organizations of the American people making for democracy and peace."

Resolution Denounces Dies

Mr. Randolph said that the action would split "the mass action of this congress."

Another resolution adopted urged dissolution of the Dies Committee Investigating un-American Activities. This asserted that the committee's activities were "a great threat to our fundamental rights" because Chairman Martin Dies, Democrat, Texas, has "used 'un-American' tactics by raiding homes and seizing property without warrant."

"Instead of investigating real 'un-American' activities such as peonage in the south and the Ku Klux Klan, Mr. Dies has viciously attacked and slandered all liberal and progressive groups," the resolution said.

The congress approved a resolution urging the Governor of Alabama to free the five Scottsboro boys who still are held in jail. Four others already have been pardoned.

Other resolutions adopted called for enactment of Federal anti-lynching and anti-poll tax laws and opposed all amendment of the Wages and Hours and Wagner labor laws.

Pledges Labor's Aid To Negro Congress

Invites It to Affiliate With LNPL; Flays Poll Tax Curb on Voting

[*Text of Lewis' speech appears on page 4*]

By Adam Lapin

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, April 26.—John L. Lewis demanded today that full and unrestricted rights of citizenship be extended to Negro people, and urged that Negro America unite with labor for the "common welfare" of both great groups.

While approximately 2,000 delegates to the Third National Negro Congress cheered and applauded, the CIO president proposed a joint program of cooperation for peace, civil liberties and jobs.

Lewis extended to the Negro Congress the same offer of collaboration with Labor's Non-Partisan League which he made recently to the American Youth Congress. He spoke to the opening session of the congress over a nation-wide radio hook-up.

There was a thundering ovation when Lewis declared "America wil not go to war!"

"In this small hall in February," he declared, "I extended an invitation to the American Youth Congress and the millions of young people affiliated with it to make common cause with Labor's Non-Partisan League for the promotion of a joint and sensible program for public welfare.

"To the National Negro Congress and to your affiliates I would extend that same invitation to affiliate with or to reach a working agreement with Labor's Non-Partisan League that our common purposes may better be attained."

ASSAILS FBI CHIEF

Lewis warned the Negro Congress pointedly that the people who are trying to drag this country into war are getting "bolder" and told the delegates to beware of propaganda by "agents of foreign countries that we have an obligation to the side of the Allies."

He bitterly assailed F.B.I. Chief J. Edgar Hoover for "frightening elderly ladies with immoderate and frantastic stories of plots against our country by foreign powers" and challenged him to "turn his face to cabins where American people are being lashed by white-robed riders" and to "seek the dark n[illegible] trails of lynching parties."

The CIO leader's proposal for cooperation between L.N.P.L. and the Negro Congress was seen as an important link in his plan to join together labor, farmers, Negro, youth and old age pension groups in a common front on the political and legislative fields.

Negro Congress Adjourns in Spirit of Unity

Yergan Elected As New President; Unions Represented on Board

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 29.—Delegates to the third National Negro Congress were on their way home today, prepared to carry out a far-reaching program of action for peace, social security and democratic rights for the Negro people in cooperation with the forces of labor.

Unity and enthusiasm for the decisions of the Congress and for the newly elected officers keynoted the closing session which was concluded late last night.

Max Yergan, former vice-president of the Negro Congress, president of the New York City Council of the Congress and director of the International Committee on African Affairs, was elected by acclamation as the new president of the Negro Congress.

Re-elected as secretary was John P. Davis, whose brilliant report outlining a program of unity with labor's Non-Partisan League and condemning the war plans of the Roosevelt Administration, was specifically approved by the delegates in a resolution last night.

6 VICE-PRESIDENTS

Six vice-presidents elected by the delegates reflected a broad cross-section of trade union, professional and religious groups and indicated the inclusive character of the Congress.

Among the new vice-presidents are two outstanding Negro labor leaders, Henry Johnson, assistant director of the Packing House Workers' Organizing Committee, and Rev. Owen Whitfield, sharecropper leader and vice-president of the United Cannery, Agricultural and Packing Workers.

The other vice-presidents are Mrs. Fay Allen, member of the Los Angeles Board of Education; Rev. W. H. Jernigan of Washington, Dr. Charles A. Lewis of Philadelphia and Dr. Robert A. Simmons of Boston.

One of the most important jobs facing the new officers will be to proceed to immediate negotiations with Labor's Non-Partisan League in order to reach a working agreement.

John L. Lewis, President of the CIO and Chairman of L. N. P. L., made the offer of unity between the two great organizations on the basis of a progressive program to the opening session of the Negro Congress on Friday night.

In a special resolution passed last night, the delegates overwhelmingly resolved to accept the offer of the CIO president.

FLAY RANDOLPH STAND

A. Philip Randolph, former president of the Negro Congress, announced his resignation last night after his splitting, red-baiting tactics had been decisively rejected by the delegates again and again.

Randolph went into head-on collision with the vast majority of the delegates when he opposed cooperation with L. N. P. L. and other progressive labor forces, refused to join in unequivocal opposition to the war-mongering policies of the Roosevelt Administration and instead concentrated his fire on the Soviet Union.

The virtual unanimity on the major resolution passed last night showed how little support Randolph had among the delegates.

It was considered significant that the most important speech defending Randolph came from Edgar Brown of Washington, who called for a blank check for the Roosevelt Administration and attempted to incite racial antagonism by talking about "white Communists."

A few resolutions introduced by Randolph's supporters were rejected by the resolutions committee because they were "foreign to the purpose for which our Congress has met here" and because their passage would have had the effect of "disrupting the internal harmony of our Congress, destroying its morale, splitting it into warring factions and thus ultimately bring about the defeat of the very purpose for which we are gathered here."

UAW LEADER SPEAKS

Joseph Curran, National Maritime Union leader, who addressed the Congress, introduced to the delegates Ferdinand Smith, Negro maritime worker, who is now national secretary of the NMU.

Newport News, Va. Press
May 6, 1940

WHAT MR. LEWIS SEEKS IS MORE POWER

The announcement that the National Negro Congress has voted to desert the ROOSEVELT Administration and throw its lot with JOHN L. LEWIS in his recently organized Non-Partisan league comes somewhat as a surprise. However displeasing the policies of ROOSEVELT may be to the Congress and to other groups, none can gainsay the fact that the progressivism of the ROOSEVELT Administration has been a noteworthy aid to the Negro. That the race can or will obtain benefits more enduring over a short period is doubtful in the extreme.

But JOHN L. LEWIS is in a desperate situation. His efforts to control labor and deliver it tied in a bundle to the highest bidder failed because of high-handed methods he and his immediate cohorts sponsored. His break with the Administration was a result of his own failure and shortsightedness. His importance in labor circles has steadily declined since he demonstrated so little wisdom in handling matters and so much selfishness in attempting to direct the affairs of others.

From now on he will woo with promises—for that is about all that remains to him—any and all groups who will lend him an ear. That he will ever again come into the authority he felt at the hey-dey of the sit-down strike is impossible. He is a fading luminary in American life, and it little behooves any group to sell its birthright in actual benefits for the vague promises of one who rode the crest of the wave and is now slipping to the trough.

Columbia, S. C. Record
April 29, 1940

Politics.

John L. Lewis seems more and more and more to be deserting the labor movement for politics.

Addressing the National Negro congress, meeting in Washington, he made not a labor speech, but a political speech, inviting the negroes to affiliate with Labor's Non-Partisan league, the C. I. O.'s political arm.

Either the Democratic party, he said, should stand by and deliver on its 1936 platform promises—he said nothing, of course, of the 1932 platform promises—or it should "give way to those who can."

What is needed, he said, is a program to "create new wealth and conserve our investment, emphasizing the great assets of our human riches and designed at the same time to command full use of our productive machinery."

And apparently he thinks that this can be achieved by governmental action, but despite all the efforts of the New Deal unemployment still, Lewis said, stands at 12,000,000.

If we believe all we hear about what's happening to the German navy, Hitler will soon have to take diving lessons to review his fleet.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
April 30, 1940

An Answer Is Needed

"OUR Congress," said John P. Davis of Washington, secretary of the National Negro Congress, "has the duty to say to the politicians of the country that no party will get the 4,000,000 negro votes in the North which does not guarantee the ballot to the voteless negroes in the South."

Davis is the negro who praised Soviet Russia so warmly in his annual report. He referred to the "real and genuine equal rights and freedom" of minority groups in the Soviet—such rights, we presume, as the right to stand before a firing squad for having disagreed with the powers-that-be. As for the South again, Davis said that the poll tax must be repealed so that the voteless negroes of this section can get the ballot.

And still some of our leading people down here say that the poll tax has connection with the negro vote. If it has no connection with the negro vote, why are such organizations as the National Negro Congress leading in the fight on the poll tax? Why also does the opposition by white people to the repeal of the poll tax run heaviest in those counties where the negro population is the largest, such as in the Alabama Black Belt? That is a question which we wish some of our friends in the heavily white counties of North Alabama could answer for us.

Hendersonville, N. C., Times-News
May 13, 1940

• BRUCE CATTON IN WASHINGTON

BY BRUCE CATTON
NEA Service Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON.—The National Negro Congress, before which John L. Lewis made his most recent attack on F. D. R., leaders here in 1935,

A little later, more specific proposals for the calling of such a congress were made by James W. Ford, the Communists' perennial vice presidential candidate.

Ford took a number of colored leaders to see Earl Browder and the idea was discussed further.

Until the time of the Lewis speech, however, there had never has been more or less a Communist front outfit since its birth. The split occurring the day after Lewis' speech, when President Philip Randolph resigned because the congress took Communist Party money and adopted a party program, was no surprise to insiders.

Bruce Catton

Need for a congress which could work out a common program for all Negro organizations was first discussed at a conference of Negro been an open row over Communist influence in the organization. The Communists have been giving active support to Lewis' tentative proposals for a third party; his suggestion that Negroes join the move was welcomed by the congress, cold-shouldered by the more conservative Urban League and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Huntsville, Ala., Times
April 29, 1940

Lewis Wins Support Of Negro Congress

WASHINGTON, April 29 (AP)—John L. Lewis, seeking to make labor's Non-Partisan League a factor in the 1940 campaign, added the National Negro Congress today to its list of supporters.

The negro organization accepted Lewis' invitation last night over the protest of its president, A. Phillip Randolph of New York, who refused to stand for re-election as a result.

In accepting Lewis' bid to political activity, the negro congress declared that the negro workers long had awaited "the extended hand of organized labor."

With only scattered "noes," it adopted, too, a resolution accusing the Roosevelt administration of abanding a policy of "welfare of the people" in favor of "mobilization of America's resources of war."

IMPORTANT RESOLUTION

Report of the Resolutions Committee and the resolution on unity with Labors Non-Partisan League adopted at the National Race Congress recently held in Washington:

"We believe that you should express here and now your opinion on the resolution which deals with the very decisive question of our association with other progressive organizations of our country whose aims in general are common to our own, particularly the labor movement which is proffering now the assistance of its members and its great prestige and influence to the colored people in the solution of our problems. With your permission, we therefore submit the following:

Resolution on Unity with Labor's Non-Partisan League

Five years of struggle teach us that further gains for our people depend upon two factors: one, the degree of unity and collaboration which we can create among ourselves and two, the degree which our united peoples movement collaborates with the movements and organizations of its friends and its allies—the trade unions, the youth movement, the farmers and all other progressive and liberal organizations of the American people making for democracy and peace, and

Long has the colored worker awaited the extended hand of organized labor, and

Colored people should be happy to accept the invitation of John L. Lewis to come to a working agreement with the mighty forces of labor and to go forward to victory; Be it therefore

Resolved that the delegates to this Congress unanimously and enthusiastically accept the invitation of Mr. Lewis to arrive at agreements with the forces of progressive labor on the basis of the program of our Congress; and

RESOLVED that a Committee of five be appointed by the incoming Executive Committee to explore the possibilities by which this Congress cann work together with Labor's Non-Partisan League.

FOOLISH DEMANDS

NOV 30 1940

THE NATIONAL NEGRO COUNCIL is the name of another "paper" organization set up by Edgar G. Brown, president of the United Government Employees Association and a New Deal appointee. On November 17 a convention of the National Negro Council was held at Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington at which the following demands were made on the government in behalf of Negro citizens:

New York Age

1. Appointment by the President of a Negro as one of the six secretaries at the White House, and the appointment of a Negro to the next vacancy on the U. S. Supreme Court Bench.

New York, N.Y.

2. Passage of legislation by Congress to compel private industry and labor unions to lift the color ban against the employment of Negroes in public projecst and defense industries.

3. Authorization of a five billion dollar relief and work construction appropriation by Congress in 1941 in order to put every able-bodied unemployed man and woman to work, regardless of race creed or color.

4. Protection of all citizens in their Civil Rights regardless of race, creed or color.

5. Appropriation of $25,000,000 to provide facilities at Tuskegee Institute for the training of Negro air pilots in the U. S. Army.

6. Continued and increased federal aid to Negro Land Grant Colleges.

7. A $10,000,000 federal appropriation in 1941 to assure Negroes of professional training at Howard University and Freedman's Hospital as doctors, dentists, nurses lawyers, engineers, technicians and business experts.

8. Immediate calling by the War Department of Negro reserve officers to be placed in command of the four Negro regiments of the regular U. S. Army and the newly formed emergency defense units.

9. Enlistment without reservation of Negroes in the Army, Navy and Air Corps, and a Negro civilian aide to the Secretary of the Navy with similar duties as the aide to the Secretary of War.

10. The National Negro Council, the United Government Employees and all educational and church organizations to raise a $100,000 fund to support this legislative and executive program in 1941.

Mr. Brown will be remembered as the apologist for Stephen Early press secretary at the White House, for his attack on Patrolman Sloan of the New York Police Department. His demands on the government are on par with his action in the Sloan case. He seems to think thateconomic problems can be solved by legislation, a fallacy among New Dealers. With increased appropriations for national defense, we fail to understand how anyone can see the government appropriating so unprecendented a sum as five billion dollars for relief in 1941. The government has already spent billions for this purpose without solving the unemployment problem.

NOV 30 1940

As for the demands for a square deal in the Army and Navy, these demands could have done the most good during the recent campaign at a time when Mr. Brown and his followers were painting a picture of the New Deal as ideal from the Negro's point of view.

Let the National Negro Council first raise the $100,000 it has already pledged and the [illegible] will take more criously the organization's claim of representing 12,000,000 Negroes. What the Negro needs is not more organizations making foolish demands on the government to spend money in our behalf but more cooperation with existing organizations and more working together to help ourselves. If the problems of the Negro are to be solved, they will be solved by Negroes themeslves and not by paternalistic aid from the government.

Negro Council Clamors For High Recognition

NOV 21 1940

A Washington news despatch says, under the above headline, "that the next Supreme Court vacancy be filled by a Negro and that President Roosevelt appoint a Negro as one of his six White House secretaries." Continuing the demands, the council passed a resolution indorsing "all aid" to Britain and "urged that all Negro army reserve officers be called to active duty and placed in command of the four Negro regiments of the regular army, and proposed a Negro civilian aide to the Secretary of the Navy."

We are in hearty accord with the demands of the council in view of the fact that the American Negro people have been loyal in every respect to the government, which has in many instances denied or been indifferent to his plea for equal protection of the law and opportunity to serve the nation.

Treason, mutiny, sabotage and suversive activities have not been prevalent among Negro citizens. The chance to labor at decent wages is the inherent right of all citizens, and yet often aliens have been employed while Negroes were left among the "unemployed."

Increased Negro representation in the government, especially in the appointive positions, such as are suggested in the demands of the council, will serve a very useful purpose in discouraging the sort of discrimination of which we here complain.

Charlotte N.C.

And there is positively no good reason why President Roosevelt should not put a Negro on the Supreme Court. Granting that this part of our judiciary system as well as all other parts ought to be free from partisanship, yet there never was a time when Negroes have been quite so bi-partisan as he is now, and by the same token never before have there been so many Negroes in the Democratic party. Hence if Mr. Roosevelt wanted to appoint a Democrat, he will find no difficulty in finding a capable one for the place.

Want Negro On Supreme Court

DEC 1 1940

WASHINGTON, D. C. (60)— The National Negro Council went on record asking F. D. R. to fill the Supreme Court vacancy with a Negro appointee and to select a Negro as one of his six White House secretaries.

Savannah Journal

The Congress which met at New York at Park Palace also demanded Negroes in defence positions and sent a telegram to Governor Lehman to the effect A telegram was also sent to the Vultee Aircraft Co. strikers in Los emphasizing the fact that colored people ahre not employed in air plane factories.

Savannah Ga.

Flash ★ ★ Flash

Negro Newsmen Admitted to White House Parleys

NOV 23 1940

A request for admission of accredited colored newsmen to White House press conferences was granted to a committee of six colored leaders by Stephen T. Early, secretary to the President, on Tuesday.

Washington D.C.

The request was only one of ten presented by the delegation headed by Edgar G. Brown, president of the United Government Employees, which was granted [illegible]th. The group did get to see the President. The petition they presented was drawn up at last week's three-day meeting of the National Negro Council in the Vermont Avenue Baptist Church.

THE NATIONAL NEGRO COUNCIL

NOV 30 1940

In one of the most significant conventions it has ever held, the National Negro Council, meeting in Washington, D. C., last Friday, adopted far reaching resolutions. Perhaps the most impressive of all were the resolutions calling on the President of the United States to name a Negro to fill the next Supreme Court vacancy, and to appoint a member of the Race as one of the six secretaries at the White House.

These are indeed timely requests It has become increasingly clear that if the vested rights of the black minority are to be properly safeguarded, such protection must not remain too long and too largely in the hands of mere friends of the Race. A reasonably adequate representation through the appointment of black men to important offices would afford us a far greater measure of security than would be possible under shifting allegiance of political "friends."

The presence of a black jurist on the Supreme Court of the United States would insure, we believe, greater liberality in the disposition of cases in which the black man is party to the litigation. Every major racial minority, excepting the Negro, has been at one time or another represented on the Supreme Court. Since the constitutional rights of the Race are invariably the issue in all cases that go to this high court in which Negroes are involved, it is no more than fair that a competent black man should be placed on the bench to lend his opinion on those questions vital to the well-being of our people.

There was a time when such a request might have been presumptuous and unreasonable. Lack of concentrated training coupled with economic exigencies of daily life had forced many a promising young Negro lawyer either to withdraw from the profession or to practice in police courts in order to eke out an existence.

Today, however, circumstances have changed. We have men trained at the best law schools of this country; men engaged in the teaching and the practice of law; men who can hold their own before any tribunal. We trust that President Roosevelt who has broken already many traditions will not seek to preserve one that is so grossly at variance with the basic philosophy of constitutional democracy.

West Palm Beach, Fla. Post
November 18, 1940

Negro Council Wants High Court Justice

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17. (AP)—The national negro council asked today that the next Supreme Court vacancy be filled by a negro and that President Roosevelt appoint a negro as one of his six White House secretaries.

The proposals were made in a resolution adopted at a convention of the council. The convention was called by the United Government Employes, Inc., leaders of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the National Baptist Convention, Inc.

The resolution also endorsed "all aid" to Britain, urged that all negro Army Reserve officers be called to active duty and placed in command of the four negro regiments of the Regular Army, and proposed appointment of a negro civilian aide to the secretary of the Navy.

Wm. Monroe Trotter
Editor and Publisher
1901 - 1934

NATIONAL RACE CONGRESS

Guardian 4-6-40

All indications seem to predict that the Third National Race Congress, which will take place April 26-28 in the auditorium of the United States Department of Labor, will be one of the largest gatherings ever assembled in the nation's capital. John P. Davis, the national secretary, has put herculean efforts into the task of securing delegations from every part of the country. According to recent announcement, John L. Lewis, chairman of the C. I. O., will be a principal speaker, and it has been rumored that President Roosevelt himself may address the Congress.

The Congress meets in a critical year in a critical place. It will be the cynosure of reactionary as well as progressive eyes from coast to coast. The reason why the Convention is important is that its attendance will comprise not only perhaps the most forward-looking colored people, but also many liberal and progressive white orgenizations who have signified their intention to send delegates. Thus if it does nothing else, the Convention will represent the unity of all Americans who stand for the full social and political equality of colored people in keeping with the rights guaranteed to them by the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution. It will stand for the true Americanism of the American people, and will be comparable to historic convocations like the "Niagara Movement" of 1911 which gave birth to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, now launching a local membership drive.

NEW ENGLAND RACE CONGRESS LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN FOR DELEGATES TO NATIONAL MEET

Boston Guardian 4-13-40

The campaign of the Eastern New England Congress for Equal Opportunities to secure funds for its delegation to the Third National Race Congress, Washington, April 26, 27, and 28, got fully underway this week when the announcement was made that Miss Laura Duncan of New York City, brilliant concert artist, will give a concert under Congress auspices at the Repertory Theatre, Huntington Ave. at Gainsborough St., Sunday afternoon, April 21 at 3:30.

Hundreds have already applied for tickets to hear the young singer, who will repeat, by special request, the numbers which she sang to an audience of 12,000 at Boston Arena, on March 31. These include the spiritual, "Motherless Child" and "Strange Fruit", forceful anti-lynch song. She will be accompanied by Albert Moss, pianist-composer.

Scheduled to speak is John P. Davis, dynamic national secretary of the National Race Congress. Chairman of the meeting will be Attorney John S. R. Bourne, local head of the Congress branch.

Friday, April 19, at 1:45 Mr. Bourne will broadcast from Station WMEX on the forthcoming National Convention of the National Race Congress.

N. E. CONGRESS ELECTS OFFICERS

Guardian 5-11-40 Boston

The open meeting of the Eastern New England Congress for Equal Opportunities, Boston branch of the National Race Congress, was held on Wednesday evening, May 8, at 558 Mass. Ave. Several delegates spoke on their impressions and experiences at the Third National Congress in Washington.

Officers for the next term were elected, all by unanimous vote, and they will serve until the next national convention. They are as follows: John S. R. Bourne, president; Dr. Robert A. Simmons, who is also a national vice-president, was made vice-president; William Harrison, executive secretary; Mrs. Kate Watkins, recording and financial secretary; Rev. S. P. Perry, pastor of Grant A.M.E. Church, chaplain On the executive committee are Mesdames Fanny Hartman, Catherine Manning, M. Cravath Simpson, Mattie Stansil, Mabelle B. Scott, Maude Trotter-Steward, and Lillian Williams; Miss Leila Green; Drs. Morrison Sharp and S. G. Pavlo; and Messrs. Charles A. Brown, Clifford Clarke, William A Fisher, Frank Silvera, and Charles Wilson. Elected as chairman of the social and cultural committee was Whitfield Jones, while Neal Thompson of the Dining Car Employees Union heads the important organizational committee.

The executive secretary was authorized to issue the following public statement regarding the annual Afro-American night at the Pops concerts of the Boston Symphony Orchestra: "The Eastern New England Congress for Equal Opportunities announces to the Greater Boston public and its friends that it does not choose to undertake the annual Pops concert this year, because the conditions obtainable are not agreeable". Congress officials refused to comment further.

It is planned to hold a mass meeting on May 22 at Columbia Avenue A. M.E. Zion Church, at which time Dr. Max Yergan, new president of the National Race Congress, will be the main speaker. Congress delegates from all parts of the state will then describe in detail the Third National Race Congress, which has evoked so much comment, pro and con, in the nation's press.

YERGAN ANSWERS CONGRESS CRITICS

In his address at Zion Church here President Max Yergan of the National Race Congress said in part:

"The most effective means the Congress has for dealing with the issues facing colored people is through its organized strength. The demands, the pressure, the ceaseless education and agitation which can be put forth by this strength is bound to obtain results. It follows then that the immediate task of the Congress is to increase its strength. How is this to be done? The obvious answer is by bringing into the fold of the Congress a vast number of organized bodies. The Congress is a federated body not only in its organizational structure but in its fundamental philosophy and policy. The strength of unity and the consequent result of unified action are axiomatic, are known to everybody Our task then is to work ceaselessly for the largest possible affiliation to Congress of organized groups of people.

"In compliance with instructions which the National Board of the Congress received from the Congress itself assembled in Washington, the National Board has given evidence of the will and ability of the Congress to utilize its strength in concerted action with another organization. I refer to the recent conference between representatives of the Congress and of Labor's Non-Partisan League. As all delegates are aware I as president of the Congress, along with John P. Davis, our national executive secretary, and Henry Johnson, national vice-president, met with John L. Lewis, chairman and E. L. Oliver executive vice-president of Labor's Non-Partisan League. The agreement arrived at in that conference has caused considerable comment. For the purpose of clarification and for the further purpose of pointing out how it demonstrates what the Congress can do I propose now to tell you about that conference.

"Every delegate has received detailed information about the agreement between Labor's Non Partisan League and the Congress, and as every delegate knows that agreement in no sense involves the Congress in any form of unification with or affiliation to Labor's Non Partisan League. That agreement prescribes a line of action as follows:

1. That Labor's Non Partisan League and the Congress agree to use all of the strength at their command to secure the enactment of the Anti-Lynching Bill in this session of Congress.

2. That Labor's Non Partisan League and the Congress agree to use the strength at their disposal to defeat any amendments to the National Labor Relations Act. It was further agreed that representatives of the Congress and Labor's Non Partisan League would meet on or about May 18 for the purpose of agreeing upon other legislation upon which the two organizations can collaborate.

"There is everything to be said in support of this action and there is no sound argument against it. It represents no departure from the established policy of the Congress, it rather fulfills the repeatedly avowed purpose of the Congress; namely, that of working with all other forces on specific issues affecting the welfare of the Colored people in America. The Congress has not handed over its identity to any other organization. The Congress has rather secured another ally in its struggle for the political, social and economic rights of the race. The Congress will stand fully behind this agreement and its answer to its critics will be an effort to find other similar allies in the fight for the advancement of the colored population.

PRESIDENT MAX YERGAN
of the National Race Congress, main speaker at N. E. Congress mass meeting at which delegates to the National Convention made their reports and President [illegible] replied to critics of the Congress.

"This is the point where we might refer to another criticism of the action of the National Race Congress at Washington. The press has recently carried articles quoting statements which the papers say were made by Congressman Mitchell in the House of Representatives. Congressman Mitchell is quoted as having said 'I wish to go on record as condemning the activities of the National Race Congress as expressed in a resolution which I understand was passed by the organization while in session here last week, which resolution purported to set forth a statement that should this country become involved in war with Soviet Russia, Colored Americans would refuse to fight on the side of our government. This I brand as a deliberate misstatement of fact. Colored people have always been loyal to this government.' "Elsewhere in his statement, Congressman Mitchell is quoted as saying 'I have implicit faith in the loyalty of Colored Citizens'.

"I wish to go on record here tonight as sharing Congressman Mitchell's faith in the loyalty of Colored Americans. There is however, a definite pattern for that loyalty. It is a loyalty to the Bill of Rights and to the Constitution of the United States. It is loyalty to the spirit and principles of the Declaration of Independence. It is loyalty to that concept of democracy which implies equality in participation in the political life of this country and equality of economic opportunity and equality in the enjoyment of the facilities afforded in the life of our country. In the struggle for these forms of equality the Congress will work with Congressman Mitchell and sincerely invites his cooperation.

"I wish to state publicly here tonight that Congressman Mitchell was incorrectly informed when he says that the Congress passed such a resolution referred to above. The Congress passed no such resolution.

"The purpose of other criticism made of our great convention in Washington is definitely to divest us and millions of other Americans adhering to the strict and straight path of struggling for democratic rights. The well known method of those who would divert us from this path is to raise the red cry. The Congress refuses to become victimized by this trick. The Congress refuses to let Congressman Dies who holds his seat in Congress because of the grossest un-Americanism in violation of the Constitution of the United States whereby practically 95% of the potential voters of his district are denied the franchise,—th Congress refuses to let the tricks o such a man and those identified with him set up for the Congress a standard of patriotism, democracy and Americanism. Colored people have learned their Americanism from Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

"The immediate task of the Congress is:

1. To ORGANIZE and BUILD AROUND ISSUES—Pass the Anti-Lynching Bill, Pass the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill—discover and act jointly with other bodies upon the main issues in the community affecting housing, education, health, recreation and above all jobs.

2. Let every delegate, every organizational representative, make patient use of every opportunity to inform and win over our people and others to organized cooperation for the common good.

3. Let us engage in unceasing efforts to clarify issues, let us unswervingly stand by our purposes and thereby win more strength for our cause. Remember our role is to carry our task forward aggressively in our effort to win full participation in a democratic America.

NOS To Hold 1st Regional Session Jan. 6

Meeting For Five Counties In Fairfax, Va.

1-6-40

Staff Correspondence

RICHMOND, Va. — The Negro Organization Society of Virginia, Inc. will hold its first regional conference of this year this Saturday, January 6, at the Vienna Graded School, Fairfax, Va. Arranged to serve the citizens of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William and Fauquier counties, the conference will attract hundreds of community leaders, educators, public workers, officers of civic and school leagues.

The aim of the conference is to help Negro citizens improve their social conditions through group discussions of their common problems. It will afford an excellent opportunity for "sharing of experiences" on various community problems. Experts on various social problems will serve as advisers to the committees on health, education, farm, home and business.

A special feature of the meeting will be a demonstration by Miss Pennie Pitt on "How to Make the Farm Home Wake Up and Live." Miss Pitt was asked by the members of the County-Wide League to present this demonstration which was prepared for the 27th annual meeting of the Negro Organization Society last November.

All officers of school leagues and teachers are urged to attend this conference. The conference will open at 9 a. m. and close at 4 p. m.

Richmond Va. News-Leader
November 8, 1940

Hall to Speak On Negro Education

MANASSAS, Nov. 8.—(AP)—Dr. Sidney B. Hall, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, will speak today before the annual meeting of the Negro Organization Society of Virginia and outline the plans his department has for Negro education in the future as well as what is being accomplished at present.

Dr. A. H. Dibble, of Warrenton, told the delegates yesterday that the importance of the individual has dwindled and the value of the group increased.

"Every Negro belongs to a group and his race is no exception," he said. "All men, regardless of race, now exert influence upon human affairs as a member of particular organization in which he labors."

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
November 8, 1940

Dr. Dibble Addresses Negro Society

MANASSAS, (AP)—The dwindling importance of the individual and the increasing value of the group was stressed by Dr. A. H. Dibble of Warrenton in an address yesterday before the Negro Organization Society of Virginia.

"Every Negro belongs to a group and his race is no exception," he said. "All men, regardless of race, now exert influence upon human affairs as a member of that particular organization in which he labors."

The increasing importance of group effort, he continued, finds good expression in the organized efforts to protect and improve the public health, bringing to the Negro the skill of many medical experts not possible to combine in the capabilities of an individual. He commended the program of the State Public Health Service in promoting the health of Negroes in Virginia.

Dr. Hall to Speak

Today Dr. Sidney B. Hall, State superintendent of public instruction, will address the meeting, recounting the accomplishments of his department in Negro education and outlining plans for the future.

Other speakers today will be Superintendent R. C. Haydon of Prince William County schools, and Dr. Channing Tobias of the national council of the Y. M. C. A.

William M. Cooper, executive secretary of the society, characterized the present three-day session as one of the most progressive and helpful meetings that has been held in the organization's 28 years.

Bristol Va. News-Bulletin
November 7, 1940

NEGRO SOCIETY MEETS

MANASSAS, Va., Nov. 7. (AP) —The Negro Organization Society of Virginia, a state group representing community leagues of the race, opened its 28th annual meeting at the First Baptist church here today.

During its three-days of discussions, the convention will devote the better part of each day to the topics of better business, better homes, better health, better schools and better farms.

Interest Shown In Program For 28th Meeting of Negro Organization Society

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Va.

RICHMOND, Va.—With the appropriate slogan "Pulling Together for Defense and Progress," the Negro Organization Society of Virginia, Inc., will hold its twenty-eighth annual meeting at the First Baptist Church, Manassas, Va., November 6-8.

OCT 2 1940

Much interest is already being manifested in the program of the opening day. The three day meeting will get under way at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, November 6, with a luncheon meeting of the executive committee of the Virginia Trade Association. Principal speakers on this occasion will be **Richard Jackson, president of the Culpeper County Farmers Association; John Murray, manager** of the Dunbar Theatre, Washington, D. C., and James A. "Bill board" Jackson, special representative of the Esso Marketers.

At the general evening session on this date greetings will be extended officially to the group by Harry P. Davis, Mayor of Manassas and Dr. J. B. Williams. The principal speaker at this session will be Willard Allen, president of the Southern Life Insurance Company of Baltimore and of the Maryland Association for the promotion of Negro business.

Appropriate music will be rendered by various musical units from Manassas, Prince William County and Northern Virginia.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
October 2, 1940

Negro Society Plans Manassas Conference

Delegates from all sections of the State are expected to attend the twenty-eighth annual meeting of the Negro Organization Society of Virginia, Inc., on November 6-8 at the First Baptist Church in Manassas, Welton H. Henderson, field secretary of the society, said yesterday.

Nearing completion is a program covering various phases of the work of the society, which is conducting a campaign for better social welfare opportunities among Negroes in the State. Slogan for the meeting will be "Pulling Together for Defense and Progress." Educators and professional and business men will take part in demonstrations, lectures, motion picture exhibits and symposiums.

The Prince William County-wide League will serve as host for the meeting.

Negro Group Meets In Manassas

NOV 7 1940

Washington Post

Manassas, Va., Nov. 6 (AP).—The Negro Organization Society of Virginia, a State grou prepresenting community leagues of the race, opened its twenty-eighth annual meeting at the First Baptist Church here today.

Wash. D. C.

During its three days of discussions, the convention will devote the better part of each day to the topics of better business, better homes, better health, better schools and better farms.

Organization Society Advances Education Through New Media

NOV 16 1940

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Va.

Special to Journal and Guide

MANASSAS, Va. — A chief media of expression here at the 28th annual meeting of the Negro Organization Society, November 6-8, was visual, and appealed to the eye. This new media of expression, in keeping with the years of history of this famous Virginia organization, that of telling the Virginia public important social, welfare and educational facts, comprised of more than forty graphic and visual educational exhibit panels.

The exhibit was the work and service of the education and recreation department of the Works Projects Administration of Virginia, arranged by its Negro supervisor, Samuel A. Madden. The exhibit this year was the third in which the society attempted to tell in pictures and visual aids, information, and stories what Negro Virginians should know and be advised about.

NEW FEATURES OF EXHIBIT

The exhibit carried this year in addition to its usual stories related to health, education, civic information, social, welfare, etc., four panels telling a story of child birth among Negroes in the United States, and why the child mortality rate among Negro mothers was so large. The charts advise: "Proper Child Spacing Prevents Death," "Family Planning Helps the Family," and others.

These charts, loaned by the extension service of Hampton Institute, were prepared by the Birth Control Foundation of America, Inc. of New York.

HEALTH EXHIBITS

Six elaborate panels, the same that were exhibited at the Negro World's Fair of Chicago, 1940, told in vivid and direct language the service of the United States Public Health Bureau to Negroes.

Other exhibits told of the advance over a period of years of the Negro Organization Society of recent state health advances, advances in the fight of the WPA of Virginia against illiteracy among Negroes, U. S. Agricultural Extension services to Negroes in the state, extension services of Virginia's Negro colleges, and the services of many of Virginia welfare and educational institutions.

Another D.C. Man Heads Ushers' Body

Afro-American

8-10-40

DALLAS, Texas — Allan A. C. Griffith, of Washington, was elected president of the National Union Ushers' Association of America by the mandate of 137 of the 189 delegates in convention here last week to succeed William H. Davis, also of Washington, who had been president for twenty years.

Baltimore

Delegates were from twelve States, the most distant points being California and Massachuetts.

Other Officers

Vice-presidents elected were: A. W. Briggs, Texas; Mrs. Gertie R. Lee, California; Henry Ballard, New York City, and Mrs. Willie May Lee, Chicago.

Elected secretaries were: Mrs. A. Jackson, financial, of St. Louis; Miss Jessie Burnett, recording, of Washigton, and Miss Alma Cooper, corresponding, of Washington, D.C.

Andrew Cox, treasurer, of New Jersey, was the only official re-elected.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
June 26, 1940

NEGRO CHURCH SESSION DRAWS 2000 YOUTHS

Mayor Welcomes Methodists At National Conference

The second quadrennial session of the National Youth Conference of the Colored Methodist Church to be held here through Sunday was formally opened last night at Booker T. Washington High School following the address by Mayor Chandler.

Welcome on behalf of the Third Episcopal District of the Methodist Church was extended more than 2000 delegates by Bishop J. Arthur Hamlett.

Other speakers were Mattie Mashaw of Alabama, Henry Wade Meacham of Jackson, Tenn., Bishop J. A. Bray of Chicago, president of the Board of Religious Education, and Dr. B. Julian Smith of Chicago.

Today's program will include an address by Bishop W. Y. Bell of Georgia. Other speakers will be Terrell Whitsitt of Michigan and John Q. Schisler of Tennessee.

G. E. Haynes Addresses CME Youths

Journal & Guide
7-6-40
Norfolk, Va.

Minority Denial A Challenge, Says Executive

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — "The civic rights and privileges of Negro people today challenges the churches of America to new methods of social action to demonstrate the Way of the Cross, and the way of equality of all men in the sight of God," declared Dr. George E. Haynes, executive secretary, department of race relations of the Federal Council of Churches before over a thousand youths of the Colored Methodist Church in their second quadrennial conference here this week.

"Can the church demonstrate that this christian way of life is a better way than the hell which has raged in Germany, Italy and neighboring countries the past seven years?" asked Dr. Haynes. "The social action function of the church puts the welfare of the poor, the down-trodden, the exploited, and oppressed in the forefront of the Gospel. In Russia, Germany and Italy when the churches did neglect this function they lost their power and the people have turned to false gods for succor in their desperation.

"The functioning church should express a new unity: unity in its goals; unity in organization; unity in program; unity among its leaders. The churches should aim to establish economic justice between white and Negro workers and employers.

"Unless the church supplies the methods and techniques by which it can work out these vital social problems affecting racial and other minorities in America, it fails in the very profession which it makes and gives way for the people to be led by the many forces of violence and disruption which threaten the foundations of American democracy.

"The youth of the church have a large and most vital part to play in bringing the social action of our churches into these issues."

Dr. G. E. Haynes Says Denial Of Rights A Challenge To Minorities

Courier 7-13-40
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Addresses Memphis C.M.E. Youth Conference

MEMPHIS, July 11—(ANP)—"The civic rights and privileges of Negro people today in this crisis challenge the churches of America to new methods and programs of social action to demonstrate the way of the cross, the way of equality of all men in the sight of God," declared Dr. George E. Haynes, of the Federal Council of Churches before over a thousand youth of the C. M. E. church in their second quadrennial conference here this week.

"Can the church demonstrate that this Christian way of life is a better way than the hell which has raged in Germany, Italy and neighboring countries the past seven years?" asked Dr. Haynes. . . . "The social action function of the church, the pastoral function, puts the welfare of the poor, the down-trodden, the exploited, the oppressed in the forefront of the gospel, which the churches cannot neglect except at their peril. . . . In Russia, Germany and Italy when the churches did neglect this function they lost their power and the people have turned to false gods for succor in their desperation.

"The functioning church should express a new unity: unity in its goals; unity in organization; unity in program; unity among its leaders. . . . Unity of goals should include the major social issues of our day. The churches should aim to establish economic justice between white and Negro workers and employers. The church cannot stand aloof from the labor question especially where it involves white-Negro or white-American relations.

"A functioning church should seek to establish civic justice for the disfranchised and excluded Negro and other non-white minorities. A functioning church should strive to abolish forced segregation which embitters community life and cuts through the very structure of the church itself. The church should help the people to get control of the financial resources they create by their own purchasing and borrowing power.

"Unless the church supplies the methods and techniques by which it can work out these vital social problems affecting racial and other minorities in America, it fails in the very profession which it makes and gives way for the people to be led by the many forces of violence and disruption which threaten the foundations of American democracy.

"The youth of the church have a large and most vital part to play in bringing the social action of our churches into these issues."

NATIONAL YOUTH SCORE SOCIAL SINS

Over 2,000 Youthful Delegates Meet In Memphis, Draft Drastic Resolutions On Racial Problems

Courier

MEMPHIS, July 11—(ANP)—During a successful session in which more than 2,000 persons took part here last week, the National Youth Conference of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church set themselves up in protest of various American practices and policies, in connection with Negroes, that are in opposition to the Christian creed.

Declaring that Christianity and Democracy are facing a grave and serious crisis, the group cited American protests of oppression in Europe as a mockery as long as lynching, mob-violence and police brutality are allowed to take place within the country's own boundaries, and went on record as urging passage of a federal lynch law and federal investigation of police brutality.

Disfranchisement and abridgment of civil liberties also was attacked by the youthful group. They declared:

"America today is faced as never before in her history with the problem of demonstrating to the world that democracy is the best way of life. We believe that there are certain practices which are inconsistent with Democratic principles and if they are eliminated will affect the higher aims of our Democracy. Disfranchisement of Negroes is one of these practices. We suggest that the Federal Government provide an agency to investigate and correct situations involving the abridging of civil rights."

Unemployment is a serious problem which must be solved if modern Democratic society is to survive, the group continued. Pointing out that Negroes in particular have suffered heavily from unemployment, solely because of their color, inclusion of their membership in trade unions was urged and protection of domestic and agricultural workers through minimum wage legislation was stressed.

Asserting that Christian institutions are facing a dark and dismal future, the youthful Christians predicted a struggle for survival against the trend of totalitarianism. Other problems discussed were: Jim Crow transportation; farm tenancy; and educational inequalities.

National Youth Conference Opens; 2,000 In Attendance

Plain Dealer
7/28/40
Kansas City, Kansas.

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—"The task of the Christian leaders in these times is "two-fold", said Dr. B. Julian Smith of Chicago, at the beginning of the second quadrennial session of the National Youth Conference of the Colored Methodist church meeting here this week at the Booker Washington high school on Lauderdale street. In elaborating the Young Secretary of the Department of Religious Education said, "The task is two-fold, first to revive and effect a reconsecration of loyalty to the principles of Jesus in the heart and lives of those already under the banner of Christianity and, second, to clear the grounds for a Christian posterity." Speaking further he observed that, "The test of reality of our religion requires that we shall supplement our trust with service, our faith with work."

The formal opening of the Conference was held Tuesday evening when more than 2,000 people gathered to hear the welcome addresses delivered by Bishop J. Arthur Hamlett, presiding Bishop of the Third Episcopal District and his Honor, the Mayor Walter Chandler of this city. Music was furnished by the Memphis Chorus of 150 voices directed by Miss Othella Sawyer. Others to speak were Miss Mattie Mashaw, Henry Wade Meacham, and Bishop J. A. Bray, President of the Board of Religious Education.

The daily lectures, adresses and discussions centered around the general theme—"Achieving Life's Objectives with Christ". Nearly 2,000 delegates and visitors are here from all over the United States. Among the great speakers who have brought thrilling messages throughout the week are: Bishop W. Y. Bell of Georgia; Bishop R. A. Carter of Texas, Terrell Whitsitt, Dr. John Q. Schisler of Tennessee; Bishop H. P. Porter of Alabama; Dr. George E. Haynes of New York; Mrs. R. T. Hollis of Oklahoma; Honorable Walter White of Washington; Dr. J. W. Nicholson of Alabama; Bishop J H. Moore of Mississippi; Dr. Mattie E. Coleman, Al bon L. Holsey of Alabama. The meeting will close Sunday with a sermon by Bishop W. Y. Bell.

Memphis is exhibiting unusual hospitality in the type of entertainment extended delegates and visitors.

Youth Confab Elects Officers

Defender
7-13-40
Chicago, Ill.

MEMPHIS (ANP) — Delegates to the national youth conference of the C.M.E. church, which met last week at Booker T. Washington high school, elected a staff of national officers to serve until the next conference in 1934.

Those elected were: Isaac Moran, Tulsa, Okla., president; Henry W. Meachem, Jackson, Tenn., vice preident; Miss Carrie Mangham of Los Angeles second vice president; Miss Mattie Mashaw, Birmingham, third vice president; Miss Laura Brooks, Mineral Wells, Tex., fourth vice president; Gerald Walton, Columbus, Ga., fifth vice president; Miss Leola Anderson Chicago, secretary; Miss Margaret Mallory, New York City, assistant secretary and Miss Stella Mayhorne, Tupelo, Miss., treasurer. Rev. C. E. Chapman of Kansas City is chairman of the CME department of public relations.

Undertakers Try to Reconcile 2 Associations

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—(ANP)—A definite step toward the reconciliation of the two national funeral directors' associations — the Independent and the Progressive — was taken here Tuesday, at the annual mid-winter meeting of the former at the Paseo YMCA.

The executive board of the Independent National Funeral Directors' Association had as its guests four representatives of the Progressive National Funeral Directors' Association and the two groups worked out a plan which is expected to bring about their reunion next August in Memphis, where both will hold their annual conventions at the same time and place for the first time since the split at Philadelphia in 1938.

Approval Unanimous

The funeral directors voted unanimously to hold their conventions together in Memphis, August 4, 5, 6, and 7, for the purpose of reconciliation, to give equal representation to both groups on the program, and to recognize equally the presidents and official families of the two bodies.

G. William Saffell of Shelbyville, Ky., chairman of the Independent Executive Board, appointed a committee consisting of 10 persons, 5 from each group, to meet and work out plans for a reconciliation.

Guests from the Progressive Association were: William E. Officer, East St. Louis, general secretary; G. M. C. Green, East St. Louis; J. E. Hughes, St. Louis; Clark Young, St. Louis, and T. B. Watkins, Kansas City.

Members of the Independent executive board present were:

St. Julian Renfro, Cincinnati, president of the Independent; G. William Saffell, Shelbyville, Ky., chairman of the executive board; Mrs. Anna J. R. Hughes, Louisville, Ky., third vice president; Mrs. Katie Miles, Atchison, Kas., recording secretary; John D. Rodgers, Louisville; William W. Beckett, Louisville; William H. Johnson, Lancaster, Ky., and Julius A. K. Ficklin, Kansas City, secretary-treasurer.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION-1940 SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF DRAMATIC AND SPEECH ARTS

Tennessee State Host to Association of Dramatics

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — "The place of drama and speech in the college curriculum" was the theme of the meeting of the Southern Association of Dramatic and Speech Arts which brought to conference nine colleges at the Tennessee A. and I. college, April 25-27.

President W. J. Hale on behalf of the college as host welcomed the conference members which included over 60 delegates, outside of those as local hosts.

Morning and afternoon sessions included lectures and demonstrations pertaining to various phases of dramatic art. Included on the program were, Dr. G. Oscar Russell, director of speech, phonetics, hard of hearing, and voice science laboratories, Ohio state university, Coumbus, Ohio, as guest speaker; Prof. Charles Winter Wood of Green Pastures' fame, being an understudy for the late Richard B. Harrison; Miss Lillian Voorhees of Talladega college; Prof. Thomas E. Pong, Miss Laura M. Averitte, Miss Alma Dunn, Mrs. C. Lapsley-Brown, Miss Frances Thompson and Mrs. Corinne Springer of the Tennessee State college faculty; Miss Elsie E. Van of LeMoyne college; Mrs. B. B. Wolcott, Tuskegee institute; Prof. Jhon M. Ross, Fisk university; Prof. M. B. Tolson, Wiley college; Miss L. B. Fleming, Florida A. and M. college and Mrs. Grace Sherman, Texas college.

RECALLS SLUR ON HUSBAND; A SOLDIER IN '19

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.
8-31-40

Alabama Whites Ripped Buttons Off Uniforms Of World War Vet

By ESTHER V. COOPER

BIRMINGHAM—(ANP) — "We didn't get anything out of the last World War, and there isn't any use of us going into this one. My husband went over and when he came back, he couldn't even march in the parade downtown. They even tore the buttons off his uniform. Sure, that peace mobilization is a good thing in Chicago, here's a quarter you can put me down for." Thus spoke a Race woman, grey-haired, slow in movements but quick in thinking, when questioned this week about conscription.

Her reaction is typical of the way in which we of the Southern Negro Youth Congress are received in carrying peace petitions from door to door in Birmingham, in speaking to groups of miners in Lewisburg, Pratt City and other mining towns near Birmingham, in speaking to steel workers, social clubs, and church groups.

Denounce Draft

"That conscription bill would be one of the worst possible things. There isn't anywhere in it a statement that there would be no discrimination because of race, creed, or color. There isn't anywhere in it that we would have a chance to be officers. That when we came out of training, we would have an equal chance at jobs without jim-crow," said a mine worker at a discussion following a debate on the conscription bill.

A young woman rose swiftly to her feet at this same meeting and said that "Our job is to get democracy here in the South, to win the right to vote by supporting the Right-to-Vote campaign of the S.N.Y.C., to support the anti-lynching bill, to win the right to education, to jobs, and recreation, and when we have these things," she declared, "and only then, should young Negro people be ready to take up arms to defend the democracy of the United States."

Drive Successful

The door-to-door petitioning on the Peace Mobilization and the Right-to-Vote campaign has been successful. A domestic worker, hardly making enough to pay for the small rat-infested house in which she lives, listened intently as I described the meaning of the peace meeting, and the importance of her signature, and told me to wait a minute as she went next door to borrow a dime so that her signature might be on the letter to the President.

Fred Witherspoon, ill in bed, who served in the last war, called me into his home when I knocked, listened to me and finally said, "You young people keep on struggling, it's our only salvation. War won't help anything. I'm for that Chicago peace rally; look under my dresser scarf and take 10 cents, and wait a minute, come back next week and I'll have another dime for you."

Distributes Leaflets

Students, ministers, social workers, miners, steel workers, domestic workers, are backing the Chicago Peace Mobilization, realize its importance, and have been talking it up in their meetings, from the pulpit, in the mines, and at social gatherings.

The Southern Negro Youth Congress is carrying on its "Battle for the Ballot," distributing thousands of leaflets on the Right to Vote, selling Abolish the Poll-Tax buttons and working on the Peace Mobilization at the same time by securing a signature for peace petitions.

SEND LETTER OF COMPLAINT TO ROOSEVELT

Defender
Chicago, Ill.
OCT 12 1940

Says Something Must Be Done for Voteless and Voiceless Draftees

BIRMINGHAM—Following an analysis of the present world crisis and its implications to youth of the South by Miss Esther Cooper, newly elected administrative secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, the national council went on record to wage a determined fight against discrimination in the application of conscription to Race youth for the democratic administration of the law, for continuing the fight for peace and for the repeal of the conscription law as a threat to our democratic system.

Youth leaders from Nashville, Washington, New Orleans, Tuskegee, Birmingham, and other southern cities met in executive session at Bradfords Funeral home last Sunday to map plans for the fall program of the congress.

Edward Strong, executive secretary, in reporting on the conscription law, declared: "The Southern Negro Youth congress calls upon the youth to obey the law, respond on registration day to the draft. At the same time our organization will continue its fight against involving our country in war, against discrimination in the armed forces and for a greater democracy at home."

Urge Defense

"Now is the time," declared Miss Ethel Goodman of Birmingham, "to call upon the youth of the South to join the Southern Negro Youth congress as their protection against bad treatment in the conscription camps. Only a strong organization at home to defend the rights of young men who will be drafted is possible for a solution of jim-crowism in the campus."

In a letter to President Roosevelt on the Conscription Act, the Southern Negro Youth congress condemned the widespread discrimination which is being practiced in the South in preparation for the administration of this act.

Edward E. Strong, executive secretary of the Southern Negro Youth congress, in sending this letter to President Rooselevt said, "This is an expression of the thousands of voteless and voiceless Negroes in the South who will be subject to register under this act but who stand to be widely discriminated against in its application." The letter to President Roosevelt in part follows:

Strong's Letter

The Southern Negro Youth congress wishes to call your attention to the widespread discrimination which is being practiced in the South, in connection with the national defense program and especially as it relates to the preparations now being made for registration of conscripts on October 16.

As the official spokesman of the nation, you have stated that this country is arming to defend democracy. We join with other Americans in our desire to defend democracy; however, we would like to take this opportunity to indicate the necessity of establishing democracy in the administration of the armament program without regard to race. creed or color.

Youth Congress To Fight Draft Discrimination

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Va.
OCT 12 1940

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — (ANP) —Following an analysis of the present world crisis and its implications to youth of the South, by Miss Esther Cooper, newly elected administrative secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, the national council went on record to wage a determined fight against discrimination in the application of conscription to Negro youth for the democratic administration of the law, for continuing the fight for peace and for the repeal of the conscription law as a threat to our democratic system.

Youth leaders from Nashville, Washington, New Orleans, Tuskegee, Birmingham, and other southern cities met in executive session here last Sunday to map plans for the fall program of the congress.

Youth Headed In The Wrong Direction

OCT 12 1940

IN its zeal to do battle with injustices the Southern Negro Youth Congress, through its appointed leaders, appears about to take an extreme position on the question of conscription, and such a position is capable of unfortunate interpretation in these perilous times. From Birmingham comes the report that the National Council of the Congress has just gone on record, among other things, for "continuing the fight for peace and for a repeal of the conscription law as a threat to our democratic system."

In taking just that position the leaders of the National Negro Youth Congress are playing into the hands of those who are fighting for the overthrow of our democratic system. "The fight for peace" phrase is a slogan long used in varied forms by those who wished to keep this Nation from arming itself adequately for defense. Often "peace" has been linked with "democracy" in the terminology of the subversive agents who receive their orders from foreign governments.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Va.

Selective service in the military forces of the country as provided for in the Conscription Act is about as democratic as anything could be in a democracy that is admittedly imperfect.

The Youth Congress leaders will find plenty to do in opposing discrimination in the administration of the selective service system, but they will not serve the cause of either peace or democracy by striving to get the law repealed. By doing so they will only incur the label of unAmericanism.

"Old men for counsel, young men for war," is a good old saying that the Youth Congress leaders might well remember during these trying times. Mature leadership is the most urgent need of some youth movements.

ED STRONG CITES DIXIE EVILS IN LETTER TO F.D.R.

Emphasizes Negroes Must Have Democracy To Fight for It

OCT 12 1940

BIRMINGHAH, Ala.—In a letter to President Roosevelt on the conscription act, the Southern Negro Youth Congress condemned the widespread discrimination which is being practiced in the South in the preaparation for the administration of the act.

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As the official spokesman of the nation you have stated that this country is arming to defend democracy. We join with other Americans in our desire to defend democracy; however, we would like to take this opportunity to indicate the necessity of establishing democracy in the administration of the armament program without regard to race, creed, or color.

You have placed the responsibility for the October 16th registration into the hands of the governors of the various states. The type of administration which is to be used for registration in each state has been left entirely to the discretion of each governor. The Chief Executive of Alabama has proceeded to use existing election machinery for the registration on October 16.

Therefore, county election boards which today refuse to register qualified Negro citizens as voters have been given the important duty of "impartially" registering the conscripts on October 16.

In all parts of the South, prejudiced election boards are greasing their political machinery to trample on the rights of Negro citizens in the administration of the Conscription Act, despite the presense of a magnanimous clause in the act making such discrimination illegal.

Okays Jim Crow

By permitting each governor to determine how registration is to be carried out in his state on October 16, the federal government has placed its stamp of approval upon the jim-crow system of the South.

By this act the federal government and the high command of the United State army have served notice on the Negro citizens that existing practices of segregation and discrimination will be carried intact into the administration of the defense act ad that the democracy which this counry is preparing so vigorously to defend does not apply to the South and to the Negro.

OCT 12 1940

The administration of relief, the agricultural program and other federal social legislation has conclusively proved that decentralization of the administration of federal laws in the South will not work. In fact, we beleive it correct to state that whenever the administration of federal laws is left to state authorities, Southern Negro citizens discover that their rights are completely overlooked.

Just Won't Work

Obviously, it is impossible for the federal government and the armed high command to administer the armament program democratically in the South while at the same time it excludes any consideration of one-third of the Southern people. Certainly if little Hitlers and Benito Mussolinis are going to administer the conscription act in the South, we may rest assured that they will carry their fascist ideas over into the intent of the law, without a doubt.

And moreover, regardless of the lofty motives and high ideals which were announced by Congress as the reasons for the passage of the Conscription Law, the administration of conscription in the South will determine the basic natures of the act.

To adte the federal government has taken no steps to assure the strict and impartial administration of this law in the South. If the democracy and justice about which you have spoken in your various statements on the armament program are to become living realities, it is necessary that the federal government and the United States army take steps to guarantee the rigid observance of the non-discriminatory clause in the Conscription Act.

YOUTH CONGRESS URGES DRAFTEES TO SUPPORT LAW

But Young Southern Group Opposes Discrimination And Foreign Wars

OCT 11 1940

BIRMINGHAM, Oct 10 (ANP)—Following an analysis of the present world crisis and its implications to youth of the South, by Miss Esther Cooper, newly elected administrative secretary of the Southern Negro Youth congress, the national council went on record to wage a determined fight against discrimination in the application of conscription to Negro youth for the democratic administration of the law, for continuing the fight for peace and for the repeal of the conscription law as a threat to our democratic system.

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OCT 11 1940

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SNYC Starts Membership Campaign

OCT 23 1940

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS)—**The Executive Committee of the Southern Negro Youth Congress is shown above in Birmingham, Alabama, where an all-day fall planning conference took place. Youth leaders from Nashville, Tenn., Washington, D. C., Tuskegee Institute, New Orleans, and other places are seen here. An intensive Membership Campaign is one of the main features of the fall program.**

Youth in South To Hit Poll Tax On Election Day

Polling Places Will Be Scenes of Right to Vote Demonstrations

OCT 19 1940

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Oct. 18.—Huge **Right to Vote** demonstrations that will involve some 10,000 Southern young people are being organized by the Right to Vote Campaign of the Southern Negro Youth Congress to coincide with the Presidential elections on Nov. 5, according to an announcement made today by the director of the Right to Vote Campaign, Dr. James E. Jackson Jr. of Virginia.

The demonstrations are being organized to call to the attention of the millions of voters who will be marching to the polls on Nov. 5 the voteless plight of four million Negroes in Dixie and six million Southern poor whites.

Young people will march in front of polling places with placards pointing to the disfranchisement of the Southern people through "lily white" primaries, the poll tax, and the denial of the right to register to Negro citizens and calling upon those who can vote to cast their ballots in the interest of the voteless millions in the South by voting for the passage of the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill and by voting for progressive candidates who will support the abolition of all restrictions to the right to vote in the South.

The following slogans are among those that will be used by the demonstrators: **"Join the Fight against the Poll Tax"; "Brother, I Can't Vote, Won't You Cast a Vote for Me?"; "Vote the American Way, Vote to Unchain the Ballot."**

Dozens of young white southerners are to participate in the demonstrations. Local Federations of the SNYC are now working on plans to perfect the demonstrations in Birmingham; Nashville, Richmond and New Orleans.

'Right to Vote'

NOV 7 1940

Birmingham, Ala. Huge "Right to Vote" demonstrations that involve some 10,000 Southern people were scheduled by the Right to Vote Campaign of the South Negro Youth Congress to concide with the presidential elections on November 5.

The demonstrations were to dramatize the disfranchisement of four million Negroes and six million whites in the South.

Southern Youth Congress Voices Opposition To Proposed Draft Bill

Courier
8-10-40
Pittsburgh

BIRMINGHAM, Aug. 8. (ANP) —The Southern Negro Youth Congress has added its voice to that of John L. Lewis of the CIO and other organizations and leaders in protesting the effort to railroad a draft law through Congress.

The following telegram was sent to Congressman Luther Patrick and Senator Lister Hill by President Herman Long: "The Burke-Wadsworth conscription bill is a danger to American democracy, a threat to minorities, their rights, freedom and personal safety. It would mean a tragic step in the direction of Fascism American style. The Southern Negro Youth Congress urges against the passage of this bill, requests the opportunity for its executive secretary, Edward E. Strong, to testify before the House Military Affairs committee."

This telegram was followed by a letter addressed to President Roosevelt and several members of Congress. The letter read as follows: "Three million Negro Americans, voteless and without representation in Congress because of the un-American poll tax laws and the flagrant abrogation of the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution declare their determined opposition to the Burke-Wadsworth Conscription bill and do memorialize the Congress to defeat this criminal piece of legislature which would regiment our youth in preparation for the waging of war on foreign shore.

"We have no interest in supporting the expansion of an army and navy whose high command persists in the anti-democratic practices of jim crowism, discrimination against Negroes in all spheres and withholding the right of the soldier citizen to vote. Give the right to vote to the Negro citizens of the South; outlaw lynching and police terror; abolish discrimination against Negroes in all branches and commissions of the armed forces; provide real jobs for our youth and security for our aged. Let our government do these things and it will never be necessary to conscript youth."

Youth Congress At Work on Peace Mobilization Issue

Black Dispatch
Okla City Okla

BY ESTHER V. COOPER

BIRMINGHAM.—(ANP) —"We didn't get anything out o fthe last World War, and there isn't any use of us going to this one. My husband went over and when he came back, he couldn't even march in the parade downtown—they even tore the buttons off his uniform; sure, that peace mobilization is a good thing in Chicago, here's a quarter you can put me down for," said a Negro woman, gray-haired, slow in movements, but quick in thinking and knowing what she believes will help the Negro people in the South.

Her reaction is typical of the way in which we of the Southern Negro Youth congress are received in carrying peace petitions from door to door in Birmingham in speaking to groups of miners in Lewisburg, Pratt City and other mining towns near Birmingham, in speaking to steel workers, social clubs, and church groups.

"That Conscription bill would be one of the worst possible things; there isnt anywhere in it a statement that there would be no discrimination because of race, creed, or color, there isn't anywhere in it that we would have a chance to be officers, that when we came out of training we would have an equal chance at jobs without Jim-Crow," said a Negro mine worker at a discussion following a debate on the conscription bill.

A young woman rose swiftly to her feet at this same meeting and said that "Our job is to get democracy here in the South, to win the right to vote by supporting the Right to Vote campaign of the SNYC, to support the anti-lynching bill, to win the right to education, to jobs, and recreation, and when we have these things," she declared, "and only then, should young Negro people be ready to take up arms to defend the democracy of the United States."

The door-to-door petitioning on the Peace Mobilization and the Right to Vote campaign has been successful. A domestic worker, hardly making enough to pay for the small, rat-infested house in which she lives, listened intently as I described the meaning of the peace meeting, and the imprtance of her signature, and told me to wait a minute as she went next door to borrow a dime so that her signature might be on the letter to the president.

Fred Witherspoon, ill in bed, who served in the last war, called me into his home when I knocked, listened to me and finally said, "You young people keep on struggling, it's our only salvation. War won't help anything. I'm for that Chicago Peace rally. Look under my dresser scarf and take 10 cents, and—wait a minute—come back next week and I'll have another dime for you."

Negro students, ministers, social workers, miners, steel workers, domestic workers, are backing the Chicago Peace mobilization, realize its importance, and have been talking it up in their meetings, from the pulpit, in the mines, and at social gatherings.

The Southern Negro Youth congress is carrying on its "Battle For the Ballot," distributing thousands of leaflets on the Right to Vote, selling Abolish the Poll Tax buttons and working on the Peace Mobilization at the same time by securing a signature for Peace Petitions.

Miners Support Fight for Ballot

The Call
8-30-40
Kansas City
Kansas

Attractive Esther V. Cooper, member of the Right To Vote Committee of the SNYC is shown presenting Walter J. Cox, coal miner of Pratt City, Ala.. with a leaflet telling of the fight of the Southern Negro Youth Congress for the Right to Vote.

Negro Youth Group Raps Draft Law

Plaindealer
8-9-40
Kansas City
Kansas

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The Southern Negro Youth Congress added its voice to that of John L. Lewis of the C. I. O., and to countless other organizations in protesting the effort to railroad a draft law through congress.

The following telegram was sent to Congressman Luther Patrick and Senator Lister Hill by President Herman Long: "The Burke-Wadsworth Conscription Bill is a danger to American democracy, a threat to minorities, their rights, freedom and personal safety. It would mean a tragic step in the direction of Fascism, American style.

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Alabama Miners Join Youth Leaders in Vote Fight

The aggressive campaign of the Southern Negro Youth Congress for the "Right To Vote" wins wide support among disfranchised workers and sharecroppers in the deep South. JAMES E. JACKSON, left, director of the "Right-To-Vote Campaign" of the SNYC, 624 Masonic Temple building, Birmingham, Ala., and ARTHUR PRICE, third from left, are shown distributing SNYC and C. I. O. literature at Hamilton-Sloss Mines of Pratt-City, Ala.

Negro Youth Must Have A Program

By T. RUPERT BROADY

In recent months this country has been seething with war propaganda. This is election year and because of this fact much of the agitation has been camouflaged in a lot of phrases directed at keeping the Americans in a state of mind which will keep criticisms of war measures at a minimum. These precautions are being exercised not in fear of the millions of disfranchised Negroes in the South but of the voters in this country. One does not have to search for proof for this latter statement. Even in these trying times through which the so-called democracies of the world are now passing, one can hear a radio announcer asking for recruits in the United States Marine Corps and stating that applicants must be white. THIS IS ONE REASON WHY AMERICAN NEGRO YOUTH MUST HAVE A PROGRAM.

The Montgomery Advertiser of Montgomery, Alabama, in an editorial of April 23, protesting police brutality to members of the Negro race in that capital city of Alabama stated in part, that "The Advertiser for one is not willing to see a handful of police officers bring grief to our citizens by wantonly abusing and humiliating people of color (only because people of color do not vote their strength in our elections)."

A few weeks after the incident that spurred this editorial in Montgomery, there were a series of editorials in the Birmingham Age-Herald calling attention to police brutality in Fairfield, Alabama. These editorials in the Birmingham paper asked that the guilty police officers be brought to justice and meted out the punishmen that they deserved. The case in point was the fatal shooting of O'Dee Henderson by a police officer which caused a near race riot in Fairfield.

These are only a few of the flagrant disregards for the rights of minorities in this section of the Southland. Each case could be multiplied many times. To combat this unfair treatment of Negroes there is a need for a program. Negro Youth must formulate and put such a program over.

Lawlessness Perpetuated

As America plunges headlong in her efforts to make herself an impregnable fortress from a military standpoint, as Congress votes huge sums of money to be expended for national defense, there remains in this country a disfranchised, ill housed and mistreated minority. The same Congress that legislated these billions for defense shelved such measures as the anti-poll tax bill and the anti-lynch bill. Yes, we must spend and spend; and we must pay and pay through taxes for this military preparedness program in order that we might insure the perpetuation of the lawnessness which is everywhere evident in this democratic country.

Here is an excerpt from an editorial which appeared in the Lee County Bulletin of Auburn, Alabama, against the poll tax in that state:

"In a democratic society the people are supposed to have the right to govern themselves. How can they do this except through the ballot? In brief, it is fundamental to a democracy that the people have the ballot; the extent to which certain members of society are deprived of the ballot determines the extent to which democracy has been curtailed. In a state like Alabama, in which the ballot is given to ten per cent of the population we might say that we have gone one-tenth of the way toward democracy."

..We must go further than one-tenth of the way towards the achievement of our objective. Youth must face these problems realistically and chart out a program of action. The "Right to Vote Campaign" sponsored by the Southern Negro Youth Congress must be supported. Other programs for the obtainment of jobs, civil liberties and other rights which are denied a large segment of our population must be initiated.

War Hysteria

The purpose of this friendly article is simply to call attention to conditions which face Negroes in this country as war hysteria sweeps the world. There is a need as never before, for unity of purpose and unity of action. All America must be free to withstand and combat un-American and subversive activities. Though the conditions which have been described in this article are essentially American, (no investigation is being made of them by the Dies Committee) they are not conditions which make this an exemplary country for the rest of the world.

EDITOR'S NOTE: T. Rupert Broady is co-director of publicity for the Southern Negro Youth Congress and has served for the past two years as editor of the Campus Digest, student paper of Tuskegee Institute.)

Youth Congress Group Meets

The executive committee of the Southern Negro Youth Congress met recently in Birmingham, Ala., where an all-day fall planning conference took place. Youth leaders from Nashville, Washington, D.C., Tuskegee Institute, New Orleans, and other places attended. An intensive membership campaign is one of the main features of the fall program.

Youth Group Holds Meeting In Birmingham

Probers Threaten Democracy Delegates Told

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The failure of the House Committee to Investigate Un-American Activities to inquire into the rapid revival in the South of the Ku Klux Klan was roundly scored last week by Edward E. Strong, executive secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, before an emergency session of the National Council of the Congress which convened here during the Christmas holidays.

The youth leaders who had assembled from Alabama, Georgia, Virginia, Louisiana, Washington, D. C., and Tennessee, were told that "democracy in the United States is threatened by the Dies Committee which is supposed to be investigating Un-American activities, but which in reality is working to destroy the influence of those organizations which have worked unceasingly during the last few years to extend democracy to all people, including the American Negro."

Mr. Strong reported that "the Dies Committee has failed to take action upon, or even acknowledge, a letter from the national office of the Southern Negro Youth Congress asking for the investigation of the reviving Ku Klux Klan." It has overlooked every organized group in the United States whose program is designed to maintain the solid theories of Nordic superiority.

"The House Committee to Investigate Un-American Activities, under the chairmanship of Congressman Martin Dies of Texas, is dangerously menacing the civil liberties of the American people and is working to create a psychology which will accept the entrance of the United States into the European war."

INVITED TO NEW ORLEANS

A report from Raymond R. Tillman, vice-chairman of the Congress, urging that the Fourth all-Southern Negro Youth Conference be held in New Orleans, Louisiana April 18-21, 1940 was unanimously approved.

Mr. Tillman predicted that the Fourth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference will have at least two thousand young people participating from every Southern state, and that it will undoubtedly be the largest conference of young Negro people ever held, either in the United States or abroad.

The recommendations of Randolph Edmonds, professor of drama at Dillard University, that the Congress work toward the holding of a super-festival of Negro culture, patterned after the Danish and Irish festivals, in the summer of 1941 or 1942, was approved and a committee under the leadership of Prof. Edmonds, Prof. John Ross of Fisk University, and Miss Margaret Valiant of the National Youth Administration, was established to further the plans for the festival.

Dr. James E. Jackson, Jr., of Virginia, Miss Thelma Dale of Washington, D. C., and Albert F. Seay of Tennessee, all-chairmen, and Carleton Lee, H.-Y Secretary of the Southern Area Council Y.M.C.A., were among the prominent youth leaders to participate in the emergency session of the National Council. Adult observers included Mrs. Edmonds Grant, secretary of the Nashville Branch NAACP, Miss Rachel Taylor, secretary of the Nashville Y.W.C.A., and William H. Shell, assistant on Negro Affairs for the National Youth Administration of Georgia.

Mrs. Mary McCleod Bethune sent a telegram of greetings.

Fourth Southern Negro Youth Congress in April

All-Southern Parley to Give Impetus to Right To Vote Movement

(Special to the Daily Worker)

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 29.—One thousand young people will assemble in New Orleans, April 18-21 as a part of the Fourth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference to further the "right to vote movement" being organized by the Southern Negro Youth Congress with the assistance of organizations throughout the South.

With the slogans "Cast Your Vote in 1940" and "Vote the Youth Ticket," the conference will be designed to further the organization among young people of voting clubs, abolish poll tax campaigns, registration drives, and general understanding on the part of young people as to the importance of the ballot.

The Fourth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference will afford Negro youth an opportunity to discuss for the first time on a major scale the organization of 800,000 young Negroes of voting age in the United States for independent political action.

Dr. Rayford W. Logan, professor of history at Howard University and director of the voting campaign of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, will lead a symposium at the conference on "Balloting for Democracy," and assist each state delegation which will be present in its discussion on "Attaining the Vote through Community Action."

Enthusiastic support of the Southern Negro Youth Congress' efforts to make Negro young people vote conscious has come from national leaders in every major field of human endeavor.

"I wish to join with you and others in calling young people of the South to attend the Fourth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference," Dr. Marshall A. Talley, Dean of the National BYPU and Sunday School Congress, stated recently.

"The Negro youth are surging with dissatisfaction with regard to their social and economic status all over this land," Dr. Talley further pointed out. "They are also voicing," he concluded, "serious indictment against the lethargy and indifference exhibited by race leaders who are in a position to help but who are not doing so. As I see it you have come to the fore for such a time as this and I trust that you will be able to maintain your usual courage to continue to go forward without fainting."

TUSKEGEE LEADER

Among other important leaders who have joined in calling the Fourth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference are Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, president of the Palmer Memorial Institute; Mr. Roscoe Dunjee, editor of the Oklahoma Black Dispatch; Miss Margaret Davis Bowen, member of the executive committee of the National Pan-Hellenic Council; Mr. W. C. Craver, secretary of the Houston YMCA; Mr. Albert W. Dent, president of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and director of the Flint Goodrich Hospital; Mr. John M. Gandy, president of Virginia State College; Mr. Wiley A. Hall, secretary of the Richmond Urban League; Mr. Charles V. Hendley, Grand Master, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama; Mrs. John Hope, Sr., of Atlanta, Ga.

Also Rev. W. H. Jernagin, president of the National BYPU and Sunday School Congress; Mr. R. O'Hara Lanier, assistant supervisor of Negro Affairs National Youth Administration; Dr. Alain Locke, professor of philosophy, Howard University; Dr. John F. Moreland, pastor of the Metropolitan AME Zionist Church of St. Louis; Dr Wm. Stuart Nelson, president o Dillard University; Mr. G. D. Rogers, president of the Central Life Insurance Co.; Miss E. Ophilia Set tle, Department of Sociology a Howard University; Miss Celestin L. Smith, national student secretary, National Student Council o the YWCA; Mr. J. B. Watson, president, Arkansas N. and M. State College; Dr. Charles H. Wesley vice-president, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and Prof. Doxey Wilkerson vice-president, American Federa

The National Council of the Southern Negro Youth Congress at its recent session at Nashville, Tenn. where final plans were made for the Fourth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference. One thousand young people are expected to participate in the Fourth Conference which will be held in New Orleans, La., April 18-21, 1940. Seated on the front row from left to right are Mr. Walter D. Parks, Chattanooga, Mr. Thomas J. Darden, Nashville; Prof. John Rose of Fisk University, Dr. James E. Jackson Jr., Richmond; Mr. Raymond R. Tillman, New Orleans; Mr. Albert F. Seay, Chattanooga; Miss Thelma Dales, Washington, D.C. and Mrs. Edward E. Strong of Birmingham.

Youth Congress Backs Velodrome Peace Rally

Daily Worker

Meeting Wednesday to Hear Marcantonio, Quill on Draft

6-12-40

Jean Horie, executive secretary of the New York Youth Congress and Chairman of the New York Emergency Peace Mobilization Committee today stated that New York's young people would support the great anti-war, anti - conscription rally sponsored by the Brooklyn Community Peace Congress at the Coney Island Velodrome on Wednesday, Aug. 14.

Speakers, in addition to Miss Horie, at the Velodrome rally include Congressman Vito Marcantonio, who will fly to the meeting immediately upon the close of Congress on the 14th; Michael J. Quill, International President of the Transport Workers Union, CIO; John P. Davis, National Secretary of the National Negro Congress; Rabbi Moses Miller, President of the Jewish People's Committee; Della V. Dodd, Chairman of the Trade Union Women's Peace Committee and Legislative Representative of Local 5 Teachers Union, A. F. of L.; Daniel S. Gillmor, Editor and Publisher of Friday, who will preside at the meeting and Harry Van Arsdale, Business Manager of Local 3, Electrical Workers Union, A. F. of L.

Miss Horie's statement in full follows:

"I know that young people will support your meeting as an opportunity to express their determination that the conscription bill be defeated. I believe that the meeting can serve as a powerful medium for influencing your congressman to prevent the Burke-Wadsworth Bill from being passed. To defend America, we must prevent the introduction of Hitler's methods on our own shores. We must halt the preparations to involve our country in a useless war, for the profits of a few.

"The conscription bill is a plot by the war-makers of America to tie the hands of American people and force us into war. We will defeat that plan by defeating the Burke - Wadsworth Bill. Your meeting can be an important part of the campaign to keep America out of war."

The Coney Island Velodrome is located at W. 12th St. and Neptune Ave., Brooklyn, and is reached by all BMT lines to the Stillwell Avenue-Coney Island Station. The meeting will start promptly at 8:30 P. M.

Tickets may be secured at the Brooklyn Community Peace Congress offices, 1918 Avenue P. Dewey 9-9167, the New York Peace Association, at the Emergency Peace Mobilization and at many bookshops. Admission is 15c.

Southern Negro Youth Blast Conscription and Discrimination

Daily Worker

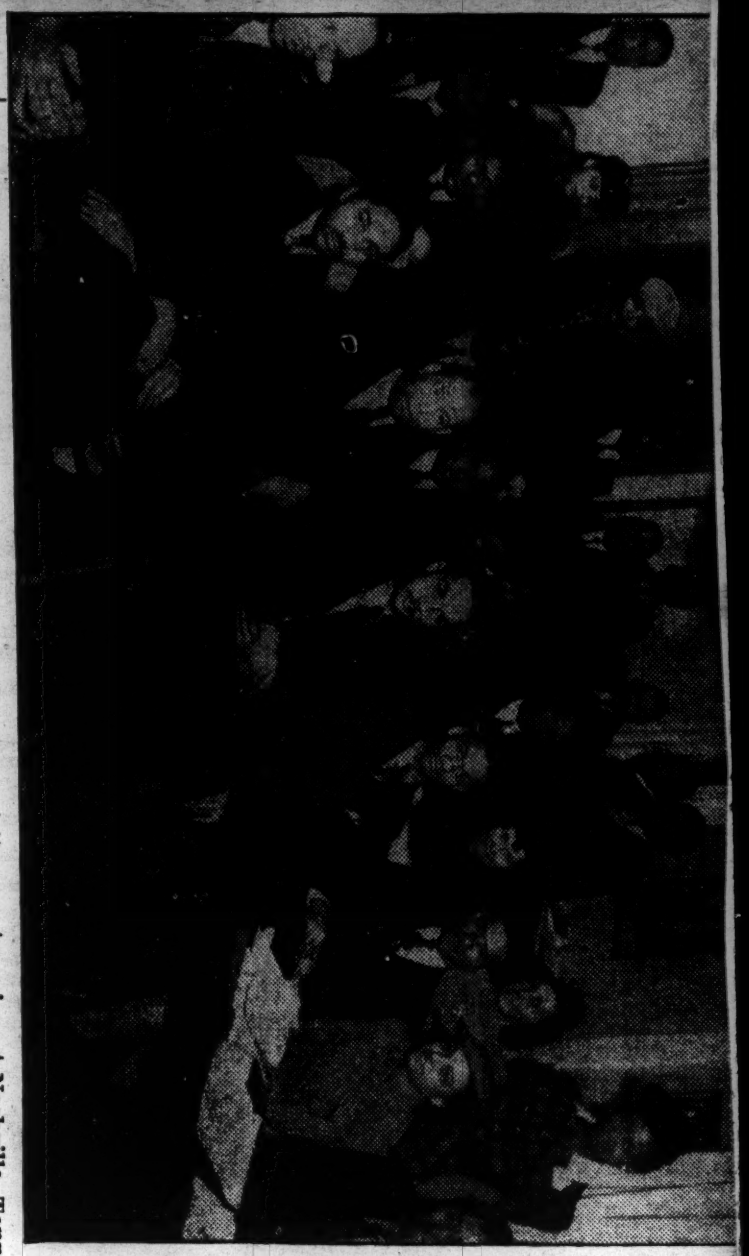
any program of national defense should be concerned with satisfying the democratic aspirations of the American people. To give the right to vote to the ten million disfranchised citizens of the South; to outlaw lynching and jim-crowism; to provide jobs for the 11,000,000 unemployed Americans; to expand the social security program is as essentially a part of an effective program of national defense and national unity as an over-sized army.

"We do not believe the Conscription Plan (Burke-Wadsworth Bill) is necessary to national defense, on the contrary, the passage of this Bill—sponsored by Senator Burke a confessed admirer of Hitler—would be a real step toward Hitlerizing America without Hitler setting a foot on our shores. We hope that all those who want to defend our country from fascism and who do not want to be drafted into the army will write their Congressmen to defeat the Conscription Bill.

The Southern Negro Youth Congress is now conducting a peace petition campaign, urging President Roosevelt to defend America by keeping out of war and defeating the draft bill. The winners in the contest, Mr. Long announced, will be given a free trip to Chicago to attend the Emergency Peace Mobilization which will be held in the Chicago Stadium, Aug. 31-Sept. 2.

National Council Of Southern Youth Conference

The National Council of the Southern Negro Youth Congress at its recent session at Nashville, Tenn., where final plans were made for the Fourth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference. One thousand young people are expected to participate in the 4th Conference which will be held in New Orleans, La., April 18-21, 1940. Seated on the front row from left to right are Mr. Walter D. Parks, Chattanooga, Mr. Thomas J. Darden, Nashville, Prof. John Ross of Fisk University, Dr. James E. Jackson, Jr., Richmond, Mr. Raymond R. Tillman, New Orleans, Mr. Albert F. Seay, Chattanooga, Miss Thelma Dale and Mr. Edward E. Strong, Birmingham.



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Youth Congress Peace Rally

Velodrome Meeting Wednesday to Hear Marcantonio, Quill on Draft

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Speakers, in addition to Miss Horie, at the Velodrome rally include Congressman Vito Marcantonio, who will fly to the meeting immediately upon the close of Congress on the 14th; Michael J. Quill, International President of the Transport Workers Union, CIO; John P. Davis, National Secretary of the National Negro Congress; Rabbi Moses Miller, President of the Jewish People's Committee; Bella V. Dodd, Chairman of the Trade Union Women's Peace Committee and Legislative Representative of Local 5 Teachers Union, A. F. of L.; Daniel S. Gillmor, Editor and Publisher of Friday, who will preside at the meeting and Harry Van Arsdale, Business Manager of Local 3, Electrical Workers Union, A. F. of L.

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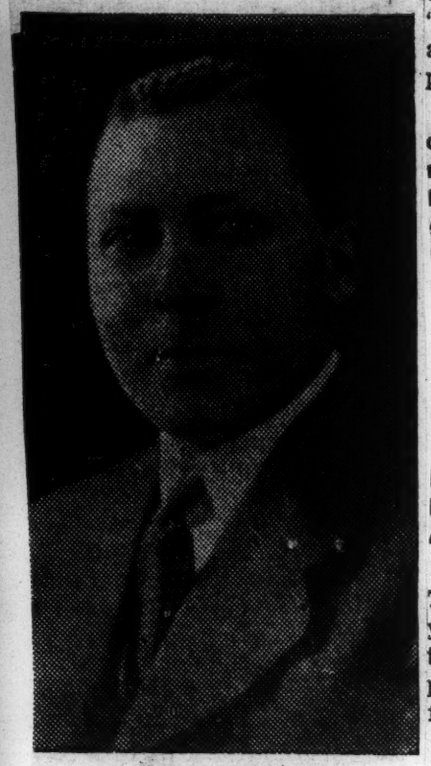
Addresses Negro Youth



DR. MAX YERGAN

Dr. Yergan Warns Negro Youth of War

South Called 'Front Line' of Democracy at New Orleans Meet

By Angelo Herndon
(Sunday Worker Staff Correspondent)

NEW ORLEANS, April 20.—In a brilliant and penetrating analysis of the role of imperialism and the meaning of the present European war, Dr. Max Yergan, Secretary of the International Committee on African Affairs, urged Negro Youth delegates attending the Fourth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference here to unite their forces for an unprecedented crusade for freedom and democracy which is denied to 15,000,000 black Americans.

Speaking at the city wide youth symposium Friday night on the "Negro Youth in the International scene," Dr. Yergan declared that the imperialist war now raging in Europe is a war of the ruling cliques of Britain, France and Germany to "hold onto their ill-gotten wealth and land forcibly seized from other people."

"How can Britain and France claim to be fighting a war of democracy," he asked, "when they refuse to grant democracy to India, Africa and other countries? The present rulers of Britain and France are enemies of democracy."

CALLS FOR PEACE FIGHT

He called upon Negro youth of the South to build a strong movement which would prevent the enemies of democracy in America from tampering with the civil and democratic liberties of the people and dragging America into the Imperialist war.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskeegee Institute, urged Negro youth to take advantage of all vocational training opportunity and prepare themselves to participate more fully in a democracy.

Unanimity of thought and action on all vital issues affecting Negro youth of the South has been one of the outstanding achievements typifying all sessions of the conference.

With the entire conference definitely committed against America taking any part in the war, the audience broke into prolonged applause when Dr. Alain Locke, Professor of Philosophy at Howard University, declared that the **"front line trenches in the war for democracy is in the South. The southern Negro youth congress is a living demonstration of strategic development of a definitely organized movement for Negro freedom."**

OFFICIAL WELCOME

An important development of the conference was reached at the symposium when Walter M. Burnett, Jr., assistant city attorney of New Orleans, declared in his official welcome to the delegates that "the white and Colored people of the South live in peace and amity. There is nothing so complex about Negro problem. Negro and white people of the South take each other for granted."

By way of informing the city representative of the lack of "amity" and "peace" in respect to the problems of the Negro people, Ernest J. Wright, Chairman of the New Orleans Council of the Negro Youth Congress, pointed to the fact that the 180,000 Negroes living in New Orleans are systematically disfranchised, and robbed of their civil and democratic rights.

"Those who sit in swivel chairs," he said, "might not know it, but the Negro people know and feel it every day. In this 'most interesting city of the South,' Negroes are forced to pay taxes, yet they are discriminated against in the educational system, jobs, and have no voice in the government."

His bold stand was greeted with prolonged applause by the delegates.

Passage of the American Youth act, extension of NYA and other Federal measures to aid education, were urged by Thelma Dale, Negro youth leader of Southern Youth.

BARE SCHOOL FAULTS

The determination of Southern Negro Youth to win their rights of citizenship and democracy has been one central theme of discussion in all panels on education, civil liberties, lynching, jobs, the right to vote, farming, and Negro culture.

A typical example of the unbelievable educational system for Negroes in the South, was brought out in the panel on rural youth by Earl Denet of Boothville, Louisiana. In this rural community of more than 300 Negroes and double that amount of whites, Negroes have been without a school for their children since the early part of January, 1939. The school for Negroes was destroyed by fire more than a year ago, and according to Denet, Negroes have been constantly insisting that a new school be built.

"Forty-three Negro families, Denet said, "are still paying taxes for education but the money is spent for the whites. We don't get nothing but a raw deal. During 17 years, we never had a school term that lasted more than three to four months. I never spent more than three months in school myself, although I'm getting along in age now."

WHITE'S REPRESENTED

Proceedings of the conference thus far indicate clearly that a new movement for the National Liberation of the Negro people is sinking its roots deep into the hearts and minds of the Negro people who live and work on the soil of the South

It is a new movement of vigorous intelligent, courageous and determined youth who are no longer content to live the isolated, drab life of hopeless frustration so poignantly dramatized in Richard Wright's magnificent nevel, "Native Son."

It is a great force for stimulating action among all Americans sincerely interested in making democracy work for all and keeping the United States out of the imperialist war.

Another great achievement of the fourth conference is the large representation of southern white youth from labor unions and student organizations whose substantial contributions to the work of the conference is living proof of the bonds of solidarity being forged among Negro and white youth of the South.

The brilliant speeches of Rajni Patel, youth leader of the India National Congress, have awakened in the Negro youth of the South a deep feeling of solidarity with other people, who too, are fighting for freedom against the oppressive yoke of imperialism.

Panel discussions will continue throughout the day and findings of the panels will be presented tomorrow to the general session for action.

New Orleans, La., Item
April 18, 1940

Suffrage For Negroes To Be Discussed

Youth Congress Delegates Register For Convention

Discussions of how to get the Southern Negro the vote will be the highlight of the convention here of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, its chairman, Herman Long, of Birmingham, Ala., said this morning, as delegates began registering for the meet, which will convene here tomorrow.

About 1000 delegates are expected to attend the sessions at the Union Bethel A. M. E. church at Thalia and South Liberty, opening at 9 a. m. Friday.

Symposium Tomorrow

Emphasis will be lad on registration laws, and educating Negroes as to their local registration laws, Mr. Long said.

In the afternoon tomorrow there will be a symposium on "Balloting for Democracy," with several visiting speakers.

The Southern Congress was formed as an offshoot of the National Negro Youth Congress four years ago, the chairman said. He was one of the founders. It has no connection with the national organization, and concerns itself only with Southern problems.

Education and health have been the main interests of the Congress, which is a federated organization embracing all Negro youth groups, including church and civic clubs. The purposes of the organization are to study Negro problems and to attempt to evolve a program of action.

Few Hospitals

"Negroes must know for instance," he said, "that in the state of Mississippi there are only some 65 hospital beds for the use of a million Negroes."

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Artists represented are Pernell Collins, Chas. McNeil, James J. Griffin, Joseph Williams, Harold Pierce, Frank Wiley, Lawrence Jones and W. Robinson. The art committee consists of Numa Rousseve, Lawrence Jones, Vernon Winslow, and Thelma Johnson.

Hampton Student Flays Southern Youth Congress; Raps Management

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"The Ph. D's are all right," he continues, "but the backbone of the movement is the common man. He is the one who deserves first consideration."

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"Handpicking the nominations, resolution, and the committee members from the floor is poor policy. Represented states should choose their members for committees. The chairmen were discourteous in telling delegates bluntly to shut up! Free speech was curtailed.

"Only Ph. D's could get the floor, except those of us who took it! Hampton's delegation this time was a participating not a note-taking one. Mr Smith a representative of Birmingham miners, was treated very rudely.

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"As to Communism—I think the officials of the conference clumsily avoded making a statement on Communism and on the CIO. (I think I understand that very well.) To my mind I see no reason for it.

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"Until we house-clean within the Southern Negro Youth Congress what we attempt will fail! If we do the right as we see right, then the congress will become the great organization that it should and the Negro youth movement the great force that it might," Dixon concluded.

SOUTHERN YOUTH CONGRESS OPPOSES U. S. DRAFT BILL

Call - 8-9-40

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DEC 28 1940

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Norfolk Va

The panel discussion led by Charles F. Anderson and participated in by Esther V. Cooper, administrative secretary of the Southern Negro Youth congress; Florence May, of the Parker High School faculty; Arthur Riggins, professor of history at Miles college and Arthur P. Stokes, city editor of the Birmingham World, centered about the jim-crowism in application of the draft law, the shortcomings of democracy and the absence of civil liberties for Negroes in the South.

Miss Cooper stated that primary to national defense is a domestic policy based on the fullest extension of civil liberties and real democracy for everyone in America. She added that young Negro people are skeptical of the type of unity which is only asked of the Negroes during war times, and that little national unity can be expected from the 10,000,000 voteless of the South, those who are subject to mob rule, those who are share-croppers, owning nothing on their farms.

All of those who took an active part in the discussion brought out the fact that Negroes are being discriminated upon greatly in the application of the draft act, and the war department had fully endorsed jim-crowism in the army.

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Negro Youths Hear Leaders

Indian Authority Speaks To Congress

The Southern Negro Youth congress, which opened yesterday at the Union Bethel A. M. E. church, continued today with addresses scheduled by Dr. Max Yergan, authority on international Negro affairs, and Kanti Patel, Indian youth leader.

Last night a citywide rally of youth was held, addressed by several speakers, including Dr. F. D Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute of Alabama. Ernest J. Wright, chairman of the local conference of the congress, gave the address of welcome and Professor Ferdinand Rousseve of Dillard university also spoke. Herman H. Long chairman of the Southern congress told them the most urgent problem faced by Negro youth is finding a job.

Others on the program were Raymond R. Tillman, Rev. Norman Holmes, Thelma Dale, Dr. Yergan Rev. R. W. Coleman and Walter Barnett, representing the city of New Orleans.

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Negro Party Unlikely In Vote Drive

Co-operation Held Best Method To Gain Suffrage

The Negro's methods in securing the vote in the South will be those of co-operation and not of antagonism, Dr. Rayford W. Logan, history professor at Howard university, Washington, told members of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, in annual convention here today.

The white primary is their major obstacle now, he said, alluding to the supreme court decision in the 1935 Grovey vs. Townsend case, in which it was decided that political parties had the right to choose their own membership, excludnig if they wished, Negroes, as has been done in the Souht.

Negro Party Unlikely

At first the solution seemed to be a new Negro party, he told the gathering, at the Union Bethel A. M. E. church, in the afternoon of the opening day's session of the Congress. But it seemed to responsible leaders such a move might revive feelings similar to those in Reconstruction days.

Now, he said, the best solution to the vote problem lies first, in appeal to the better class of white persons in the South, those who could be brought to favor suffrage for Negroes properly qualified to vote. In borderline states this feeling exists substantially, already, he said.

Secondly, the Negro must be aroused himself, to a knowledge of the benefits he can gain through suffrage.

South Held Fascist

There is a possibility, he said that the Grovey-Townsend decision may be reversed, he said. There have been five new liberal appointees to the court since 1935, including Justice Hugo Black, ex Klansman, who might be expected to vote for a reversal, in line with his other liberal decisions on socail questions.

As this country re-asserts it democracy, particularly if we should care to go to war again "for democracy," it may be a strong talking-point for Negro suffrage that we do not have democracy at all in the South, he said. "The South is not economically fascist," he said, "but it is politicaly fascist, and the talk of democracy in America is foolish so long as the Negro cannot vote."

Symposium Held

Dr. Logan's talk was one of a symposium on Negro suffrage, the main topic of discussion at the conference, presided over by Herman Long of Birmingham, Ala.

Other speakers this afternoon were to be Joseph Cadden, Archie LeCesne, Donald Jones and Dr. James E. Jackson, Jr.

This morning the delegates, from several southern states, heard reports of local representatives. On the program were Ethel J. Nunnly, Willie Joe Hart, James Bolden, J. L. Pitts, Edgar Holt, John L. Grayson, Viola E. Hilliard, Lee Anna Pitts, all from out of town, and Sheldon C. Mays, New Orleans.

Rally Tonight

Late this afternoon state meetings were to be held to discuss "Attaining the Vote Through Community Action."

At 7:45 p. m. tonight there is to be a city-wide youth rally, addressed by Chairman Long, Thelma Dale, Dr. Max Yergan, director of the international committee on African affairs, and by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Ala..

The congress will adjourn Sunday.

Youth Congress To Fight Jim Crow Against Draftees

BIRMINGHAM.— (ANP) Following an analysis of the present world crisis and its implications to youth of the South, by Miss Esther Cooper, newly elected administrative secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, the national council went on record to wage a determined fight against discrimination in the application of conscription to Negro youth for the democratic administration of the law, for continuing the fight for peace and for the repeal of the conscription law as a threat to our democratic system.

OCT 12 1940

Youth leaders from Nashville, Washington, New Orleans, Tuskegee, Birmingham, and other southern cities met in executive session at Bradfords Funeral Home last Sunday to map plans for the fall program of the congress.

Edward Strong, executive secretary, in reporting on the conscription law, declared: "The Southern Negro Youth congress calls upon the youth to obey the law, respond on registration day to the draft. At the same time our organization will continue its fight against involving our country in war, against discrimination in the armed forces and for a greater democracy at home."

"Now is the time," declared Miss Ethel Goodman of Birmingham, "to call upon the youth of the South to join the Southern Negro Yourth Congress as their protection against bad treatment in the conscription camps. Only a strong organization at home to defend the rights of young men who will be drafted is possible for a solution of jim-crowism in the camps."

Negro Youth Congress In South Joins CIO In Assault Upon Conscription Bill

Black Dispatch 8-10-40
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Addresses Telegram To President Roosevelt In Which Poll Tax Gets Rap

Urges Congress Outlaw Lynching

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Black Dispatch 8-10-40 Oklahoma City, Okla.

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Youth Congess—

CAMPAIGN FOR CONSCRIPTION BILL DEFEAT

The Call 8-30-40 Kansas City, Mo.

Right-to-Vote Fight Being Waged by Youth in South

BIRMINGHAM. —(ANP) —"We didn't get anything out of the last World war, and there isn't any use of us going to this one. My husband went over and when he came back, he couldn't even march in the parade downtown—they even tore the buttons off his uniform; sure, that peace mobilization is a good thing in Chicago, here's a quarter you can put me down for," said a Negro woman, grey-haired, slow in movements but quick in thinking and knowing what she believes will help the Negro people in the South.

Her reaction is typical of the way in which we of the Southern Negro Youth congress are received in carrying peace petitions from door to door in Birmingham, in speaking to groups of miners in Lewisburg, Pratt City and other mining towns near Birmingham, in speaking to steel workers, social clubs, and church groups.

"That Conscription bill would be one of the worst possible things; there isn't anywhere in it a statement that would be no discrimination because of race, creed, or color, there isn't anywhere in it that we would have a chance to be officers, that when we came out of training, we would have an equal chance at jobs without Jim-Crow." said a Negro mine worker at a discussion following a debate on the conscription bill.

A young woman rose swiftly to her feet at this same meeting and said that "our job is to get democracy here in the South, to win the right to vote by supporting the Right to Vote campaign of the SNYC, to support the anti-lynching bill, to win the right to education, to jobs, and recreation, and when we have these things," she declared, "and only then, should young Negro people be ready to take up arms to defend the democracy of the United States."

The door to door petitioning on the Peace Mobilization and the Right to Vote campaign has been successful. A domestic worker, hardly making enough to pay for the small rat-infested house in which she lives, listened intently as I described the meaning of the peace meeting, and the importance of her signature, and told me to wait a minute as she went next door to borrow a dime so that her signature might be on the letter to the President.

Fred Witherspoon, ill in bed, who served in the last war, called me into his home when I knocked, listened to me and finally said, "You young people keep on struggling, it's our only salvation. War won't help anything. I'm for that Chicago Peace rally; look under my dresser scarf and take 10 cents, and wait a minute, come back next week and I'll have another dime for you."

Negro students, ministers, social workers, miners, steel workers, domestic workers, are backing the Chicago Peace mobilization, realize its importance, and have been talking it up in their meetings, from the pulpit, in the mines, and as social gatherings.

The Southern Negro Youth congress is carrying on its "Battle for the Ballot" distributing thousands of leaflets on the Right to Vote, selling Abolish the Poll-Tax Buttons and working on the Peace Mobilization at the same time by securing a signature for Peace Petitions.

SNYC FAVORS STRONG HOME DEFENSE PLAN

Defender 8-17-40 Chicago, Ill.

Thinks That Conscription Is Step Toward Hitlerism

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Herman H. Long, president of the Southern Negro Youth Congress announced this week that his organization had a representative at the Conference of Leaders of National Organizations, August 1-2, at the Willard hotel, Washington, D. C.

The conference dealt with the problems of consumers and the role the social service organizations could play in the program of natoinal defense. The invitation came from Commissioner Harriet Elliot of the National Defense Commission. In discussing the meeting, Mr. Long said:

"The S.N.Y.C. was represented by our national vice chairman, Miss Thelma Dale.

"The S.N.Y.C. is wholeheartedly in favor of strengthening our national defenses against the possibility of attack from without or the Hitlerizing of our country from within. We are convinced that an army, navy and air corps which does not irradicate the undemocratic jim crow practises against Race patriots is not a reliable defender of democracy.

"We believe that the first steps in any program of national defense should be concerned with satisfying the democratic aspirations of the American people. To give the right to vote to the ten million disfranchised citizens of the South; to outlaw lynching and jim-crowism; to provide jobs for the 11,000,000 unemployed Americans; to expand the social security program is as essentially a part of an effective program of national defense and national unity as an over-sized army.

"We do not believe the Conscription Plan (Burke-Wadsworth Bill) is necessary to national defense, on the contrary, the passage of this bill—sponsored by Senator Burke, a confessed admirer of Hitler—would be a real step toward Hitlerizing America without Hitler setting a foot on our shores.

"We hope that all those who want to defend our country from fascism and who do not want to be drafted into the army to write their Congressmen to defeat the Conscription Bill. The S.N.Y.C. will be represented at a peace confab in Chicago, August 31-September 2.

Youths To Petition Congress To Abolish Poll Tax Law

NOV 16 1940

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., (ANP)—The Southern Negro Youth Congress is making plans to have poll tax booths at the November conventions of both the Congress of Industrial organizations, and the American Federation of Labor.

Another important development on the right-to-vote front, following closely after the hugh November Fifth right-to-vote demonstrations, held under the auspices of the Youth Congress is the circulatio nof a petition addressed to Congress asking for the passage of the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill. Eforts are being made to secure 100,000 signatures to the petition which is being circulated by the SYNC and which follows in full:

PETITION

"To The President and Congress of the United States:
"To Congressman Luther Patrick

"Ten million Southern citizens are illegally denied the right to vote in federal elections because of the existence of the poll tax in eight Southern states. In addition to the handicap of the poll tax, four million Negro Southerners are effectively barred from voting through such discriminatory practices as the denial of the right to register, the "lily white" primaries, and outright intimidation. The Fifteenth Amendment declares that "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, previous condition of servitude.

"The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation." In keeping with the spirit of this Amendment, we, the undersigned citizens petition for the immediate passage of legislation which will enforce the provisions of the Fifteenth Amendment."

Youth in Southern Town Demonstrate for the Ballot

NOV 23 1940

BIRMINGHAM,—"I registered for the draft now I want to register to vote," declared one Negro youth on a placard he carried in the Right-to-Vote demonstration in Birmingham on election day.

Young Negro people, organized by the Right-to-Vote campaign of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, walked down busy streets in the pouring rain with placards illustrating the denial of 10,000,000 in the South to vote because of the poll-tax, the "lily-white" primaries, registration restrictions, and outright intimidation.

As the young people walked from place to place. many comments from spectators could be heard. Negroes greeted them everywhere, both Negro and white people ran out of the stores and shops to watch the group go by. An elderly Negro woman said as she read the placard—"Vote The American Way, Vote to Unchain the Ballot— That is what's needed to be done. We won't win the right to vote by sitting behind closed doors talking about it, theses young people will bring a new day."

The young people walked in single file, carrying signs which read, "Let Us Vote, We Are Americans, Too: Poll Tax Denies Democracy: Poll Tax Must Go; Pass the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill; Abolish Registration Discrimination: Poll Tax Disfranchises 10,000,000 Southerners", and other slogans.

In the morning, the group went from door to door with petitions to congress, the President, and Congressman Luther Patrick calling for the immediate passage of the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill and the enforcement of the 15th amendment.

The petitions said in part. "In addition to the handicap of the poll tax, four million Negro Southerners are effectively barred from voting through such discriminatory practices as the denial of the right to register. the lily-white primaries and outright intimidation. In keeping with the spirit of American democracy, we the undersigned citizens petition for the immediate passage of the Geyer Bill and for the immediate passage of legislation which will enforce the provisions of the 15th amendment."

The group collected hundreds of signatures in a short time. Another group sold Abolish-the Poll Tax Buttons, stamps. and gave out leaflets and other literature on the right to vote.

Edward S. Strong, executive secretary of the congress told the press that "these demonstrations are being sponsored by the SYNC to publicize the plight of ten million voteless Southerners.

Negro Rural Youth Clubs Being Formed

DEC 5 1940

"We are building the Southern Negro Youth Congress in rural Alabama; it is catching the imagination of everyone," said Mary Jane Grey, daughter of a Dadeville, Alabama share-cropper at the National Council meeting of the Southern Negro Youth Congress held in Birmingham, Alabama, Sunday, December 1.

The work of the Rural Committee of the Congress under the Chairmanship of Ethel Lee Goodman is one of the first growing activities of the Congress. Rural SNYC clubs have been organized in rural Alabama and Louisiana, clubs which are dealing with the specific problems of rural youth—school buses, organized recreation, quilt projects, libraries on wheels. Through these clubs, the SNYC hopes to build up a close relationship between rural and city youths of the South.

Cultural work, the "Right-To-Vote" campaign, the labor school activities, student work, and special civil liberties cases were discussed and a winter program outlined by the 30 young people who gathered at the meeting. Pauline Thomas, president of the Birmingham Council of the League of Young Southerners brought greetings from the white youth in her organization and pledged continued support and cooperation of the League of Young Southerners. "We must work together for peace," she said.

AGAINST OPPRESSION

Esther Cooper, Administrative Secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, stated, "We are working toward the freedom of the Negro people in the Southland and of all the oppressed people in America." "And we, as young Negro women, must take the leadership in the struggles of the Negro people."

Carleton Lee, Southern Hi-Y secretary, outlined plans for integrating the youth groups already formed in the churches with the program of the SNYC; and Peter Price of Nashville, Tennessee, told of the success of the Nashville Suitcase Theatre and his plans for building SNYC clubs.

After the meeting, the Cultural Committee under the direction of Pernell Collins and Addye Tate Stallworth put on a few scenes from Langston Hughes' "Don't You Want to Be Free," at the Negro Exposition now being shown in Birmingham.

Demonstrate For Right To Vote

NOV 30 1940

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—"I registered for the draft, now I want to register to vote," declared one Negro youth on a placard he carried in the Right to Vote Demonstration in Birmingham on Nov. 5, election day. Young Negro people, organized by the Right to Vote Campaign of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, walked down busy streets in the pouring rain with placards illustrating the denial of 10,000,000 in the South the right to vote—because of the poll tax (4,000,000 Negroes and 6,000,000 white).

As the young people walked from place to place, many comments from spectators could be heard. Negroes greeted them everywhere. Both Negro and white people ran out of the stores and shops to watch the group go by. As she read the placard—"Vote the American Way, Vote to Unchain the Ballot," an elderly Negro woman said, "That is what's needed to be done. We won't win the right to vote by sitting behind closed doors talking about it. These young people will bring a new day."

The young people walked in single file, carrying other signs which read, "Let Us Vote, We Are Americans, Too"; Poll Tax Denies Democracy"; "Poll Tax Must Go"; "Pass the Geyer Poll Tax Bill"; "Abolish Registration Discrimination"; "Poll Tax Disfranchises 10,000,000 Southerners"; and other slogans.

In the morning, the group went from door to door with petitions to Congress, the President, and Congressman Luther Patrick calling for the immediate passage of the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill and the enforcement of the Fifteenth Amendment.

The petitions said in part, "In addition to the handicap of the poll tax, four million Negro Southerners are effectively barred from voting through such discriminatory practices as the denial of the right to register, the "lily-white" primaries and outright intimidation.

Defense Leaders Evade Civil Liberty Questions

DEC 12 1940

Where is the democracy in the South which we are arming to defend? This note wove itself into the whole theme of the National Defense Program sponsored by the YWCA in Birmingham, Saturday, December 7.

The Conference was held at the Sloss-Sheffield Community Center with Miss Frances Williams and Miss Gladys Baker of the National Defense Advisory Commission in Washington as guest speakers.

The panel discussion was led by Charles F. Anderson and participated in by Esther V. Cooper, Administrative Secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress; Florence May, of the Parker High School faculty; Arthur Riggins, professor of history at Miles College, and Arthur P. Stokes, city editor of the Birmingham World. It centered about the Jim-croism in the applications of the Draft Law, the shortcomings of our democracy and the absence of civil liberties for Negroes in the South.

Miss Cooper stated that primary to National Defense is a domestic policy based on the fullest extension of civil liberties and real democracy for everyone in America. She added that young Negro people are skeptical of the type of unity which is only asked of the Negroes during War times, and that little national unity can be expected from the 10,000,000 voteless of the South, (six million white and four million Negro), those who are subject to mob rule, those who are sharecroppers, owning nothing on their farms.

Miss May pointed to the many short-comings of democracy for the Negro and poor white in America.

Pernell Collins, of the Southern Negro Youth Congress asked Miss Williams and Miss Baker to answer the many questions on what was going to be done about the absence of civil liberties in the South, and was told that "they didn't intend to answer."

Absence of Civil Liberties In Alabama Injected In National Defense Program

DEC 21 1940

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—"Where is the democracy in the South which we are arming to defend'?

This note was sounded again and again and finally wove itself into the whole theme of the National Defense Program sponsored by the YWCA here Saturday.

The conference was held at the Sloss-Sheffield Community Center with Miss Frances Williams and Miss Gladys Baker of the National Defense Advisory Commission in Washington as guest speakers. Although the objectives of the Conference were stated to be: to foster and maintain citizens of high morale; to give information on governmental activity as applied to consumer problems and national defense, and to offer workable techniques the Negro may use in cooperation with national defense, a prominent note heard by all was a cry against the absence of democratic rights and civil liberties for both Negroes and whites in the South.

The panel discussion led by Charles F. Anderson and participated in by Esther V. Cooper, administrative secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress; Florence May of the Parker high school faculty; Arthur Riggins, professor of History at Miles College and Arthur P. Stokes, city editor of the Birmingham World, centered about the jim-crowism in the application of the Draft Law, the shortcomings of our democracy and the absence of civil liberties for Negroes in the South.

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Miss May pointed to the many shortcomings of democracy for the Negro and poor white in America, and doubted that young Negro men would give wholehearted support to any war, when they are constantly subject to injustices and jim-crowism in the armed forces.

Pernell Collins, of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, asked Miss Williams and Miss Baker to answer the many questions on what was going to be done about the absence of Civil Liberties in the South, and was told that "they didn't intend to answer."

The protest against the change in the federal food stamp program by a rural worker was an indication of the protest against the rise consumer prices which the masses of the people are feeling severely.

All of those who took an active part in the discussion brought out the fact that Negroes are being discriminated upon greatly in the application of the Draft Act, and that the War Department had fully endorsed jim-crowism.

Youth Congress Leader Misguided

OCT 26 1940

THE executive secretary of the Southern Negro Youth Congress takes issue in a letter printed on this page with our recent comment concerning his organization's opposition to the Selective Service legislation.

Mr. Strong emphasizes the factors making for war conditions. Perhaps he is right. But why we are faced with war seems to us to be entirely UNimportant in comparison with the very real fact that we ARE faced with war. At least, with the necessity of being so obviously prepared that we can prevent acts that we could not honorably accept without going to war, prepared or not.

In the face of what has happened "since Munich" in just over a year, in the face of the collapse and overrunning of great and small nations by the Germans, Russians, and Japanese we are fools to be complacent. There were those in Finland, Norway, Czecho-Slovakia, Austria, France, Holland, Belgium, and England who argued against preparedness—but look at them now.

It was never more pertinent than now to point out that we face a condition, not a theory. We are Americans. To be subjugated by the dictator powers, or be forced to live in a world virtually dominated by them cannot be conceived as acceptable to Americans. If we think that American prejudice is cruel, ask the minorities in Germany and in the defeated nations abroad how they like the Hitler type of prejudice and racial doctrine!

Certainly, there have been mistakes made. Certainly, there are selfish and undemocratic interests. Certainly, we may be helping to preserve the British empire. But until we HAVE a truly strong two-ocean navy, we need the English fleet's domination of the Atlantic.

We will even concede that conscription and its sequels MIGHT lead to some sort of "fascism" in this country. But there is no "maybe" about what will happen if we are so weak that we become subservient to the dictators. All the isms except Americanism are cornered by the unholy alliance of Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, and Japan.

We don't, of course, condone all of the offenses Mr. Strong itemizes in the latter portion of his letter. But we can't see the connection between those things and making this country secure in its strength to protect itself. We CAN see an important role for the Youth Congress, and for others too, in seeking to have the selective service law justly and equitably administered.

The Communists sought to be less unpopular by belaboring Fascism. But with Russia and the Fascism of Italy and Germany in a bloody partnership that subterfuge has gone out of date. Mature leadership long since noticed that. Some less mature leaders ought to come up to date.

The Open Forum

OCT 26 1940

Youth Congress Sec'y Takes Issue With Us

Editor, Journal and Guide: With your permission I am submitting this statement in answer to the editorial which appeared in the October 12 issue of the Journal and Guide under the title, "Youth Headed in the Wrong Direction." In brief the editorial argues that the National Council of the Southern Negro Youth Congress is taking an extreme position and is playing into the hands of subversive forces by calling for the repeal of the Conscription Act.

It further states that the Conscription Act is "as democratic as anything could be" and that SNYC leaders should confine themselves to "opposing discrimination in the administration of the selective service system." The editorial is concluded with the observation that "mature leadership is the most urgent need of some youth movements."

We are opposed to compulsory military training in peace time because it is the antithesis of democracy. The purpose of the bill is to militarize the nation so that the people of this country will blindly take the road to war. Young Negro people want peace and not war.

If America enters the war, it will be for the purpose of fighting to preserve the decadent British empire and to preserve the financial investments of imperialist interests in the Far East. Despite all of the loud "hoorays" for democracy over the radio, the press, and in the movies, young people know that conscription is a major step towards American fascism and are therefore opposed to it.

To limit our efforts to fighting discrimination within the administration of the law without questioning the causes for its passage would be to demonstrate ineptness of leadership. It appears to me that this is what too many of us are already guilty of. We agree to a twenty billion dollar war program. We re-echo the hollow and insane cry of the administration about the threat of German invasion. We agree in toto to the hasty feverish preparations for war in the Far East. But we never ask why the noise and fuss.

This "mature leadership" about which you speak is the leadership which sold Ethiopia down the river. It made possible the victory of German and Italian fascism over democracy in Spain. It rearmed Hitler and thus made a war possible. It turned the French people over to the fascists. It has supplied the materials with which the Japanese militarists have waged war against the Chinese people. It is this leadership which has kept the colonial peoples of the world in slavery. And it is this same leadership which has not solved the problem of ten million unemployed in the United States, which will not permit the passage of the Anti-Lynch Bill, which disfranchises ten million southern people, which keeps the sharecroppers and tenant farmers in the South in slavery.

It is the leadership which is rapidly speeding the breakdown of civilization and returning man to the dark ages. And it is all being done under the slogan "democracy is your cause." That is how fascism came to Germany and Italy and Spain, all in the name of democracy. And now you tell us that it is un-American to question such futile policies.

Negro Americans should oppose every form of discrimination in the armament program. But in doing so, we should indicate that our fight is for democracy. We are not fighting to help militarize and to bring fascism to America. Therefore, the intent of the entire armament program must be critically examined. And the most superficial examination leads to the conclusion that we are preparing to wage an imperialist war rather than a war of defense or for democracy.

And the most superficial analysis will indicate also that many of our leaders are merely the echoes of the war alarmists. So you will pardon us if we are for the repeal of conscription since it is the young people who must do the fighting and the dying. And we would like to know for what we are fighting and dying.

EDWARD E. STRONG,
Executive Secretary,
Southern Negro Youth Congress,
Birmingham, Ala.

Newport News, Va. Press
October 15, 1940

A Backward Step

The Southern Negro Congress, through its appointed leaders, has gone on record for "continuing the fight for peace and for the repeal of the conscription law as a threat to our democratic system." Here we again see the influence of the Communists in one of the youths' organizations, of which there are several in this country.

There can be no more democratic system of training for preparedness than selective conscription. But the Negro Youth Congress cannot see it for the simple reason that they have been blinded by the foreign isms on which they have been fed for so long a time.

Southern Youth Congress Will Petition House On Poll Tax Bill

NUV — 9 1940

BIRMINGHAM — The Southern Negro Youth Congress is making plans to have poll tax booths at the November conventions of both the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and the American Federation of Labor.

Another important development on the right-to-vote front, following closely after the huge November 5 right-to-vote demonstrations, held under the auspices of the Youth Congress is the circulation of a petition addressed to Congress asking for the passage of the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax bill.

Efforts are being made to secure 100,000 signatures to the petition which is being circulated by the S.N.Y.C. and which follows in full:

"To the President and Congress of the United States:

"To Congressman Luther Patrick:

"Ten million southern citizens are illegally denied the right to vote in federal elections because of the existence of the poll tax in eight southern states. In addition to the handicap of the poll tax, four million Negro southerners are effectively barred from voting through such discriminatory practices as the denial of the right to register, the lily white primaries, and outright intimidation.

"The Fifteenth Amendment declares that 'The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, previous condition of servitude. The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.'

"In keeping with the spirit of this amendment, we, the undersigned citizens petition for the immediate passage of the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax bill, and for the passage of legislation which will enforce the provisions of the Fifteenth Amendment."

In a communication signed by Edward E. Strong, and Esther V. Cooper, secretaries of the Congress, the A. F. of L. was urged to set up Right-To-Vote Committees through its affiliated state and local bodies.

"What is needed at this time," the communication said, "is for a more definitive support on the part of the groups that have resolved for the abolition of the poll tax."

The attention of Mr. Green, president of the Federation, was called to the fact that at the last convention of the American Federation of Labor, held in Cincinnati, Ohio, October, 1939, the American Federation of Labor, "declared its approval of the principle that all citizens, regardless of color or race, should be equally entitled to the full rights of adult suffrage," and that Paul Scharrenberg, a legislative representative of the Federation, supported the passage of the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill in testimony presented to the hearings of the bill before the House Judiciary Committee, Wednesday, April 3, 1940.

LABOR UNION'S AID ASKED BY YOUTH GROUP

See Hope of Giving Ballot Rights To Race People In Southern States

NOV — 9 1940

BIRMINGHAM.—As thousands of southerners began signing petitions addressed to the President and the Congress of the United States, calling for the passage of the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill and for the passage of federal legislation to enforce the right to vote clause of the Fifteenth Amendment, the American Federation of Labor was asked this week by the Southern Negro Youth Congress to enlist actively its four million members in the struggle to win the right to vote for ten million disfranchised Southern citizens

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Youth Congress Asks A. F. of L. To Aid Right To Vote Fight

NOV 9 1940

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—As thousands of Southerners began signing petitions addressed to the President and the Congress of the United States calling for the passage of the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill and of federal legislation to enforce the "right to vote" clause of the Fifteenth Amendment, the American Federation of Labor was asked last week by the Southern Negro Youth Congress to enlist actively its four million members in the struggle to win the right to vote for ten-million disfranchised Southern citizens.

In a communication dated Friday, November 1 and signed by Edward E. Strong and Esther V. Cooper, secretaries of the Congress, the AF of L was urged to set up right-to-vote committees through its affiliated state and local bodies.

The attention of William Green, president of the Federation, was called to the fact that at the last convention of the American Federation of Labor, held in Cincinnati, Ohio, October 1939, the Federation "declared its approval of the principle that all citizens, regardless of color or race, should be equally entitled to the full rights of adult suffrage," and that Paul Scharrenberg, a legislative representative of the Federation, supported the passage of the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill in testimony presented to the hearings on the bill before the House Judiciary Committee, Wednesday, April 3, 1940.

The Congress of Industrial Organizations, National Maritime Union, Railway Brotherhoods, International Longshoremen's Association, American Federation of Teachers, American Newspaper Guild, and the American Communications Association are among the many important groups that have gone on record for abolishing the poll tax. The Southern Negro Youth Congress is making plans to have Poll Tax Booths at the November Conventions of both the Congress of Industrial Organizations and the American Federation of Labor.

Another important development on the right-to-vote front, following closely after the huge November fifth right to vote demonstrations, held under the auspices of the Congress, is the circulation of a petition addressed to the Congress asking for the passage of the Geyer Anti-Poll Tax Bill.

Youth Congress Council Meets In Nashville

NASHVILLE,—(ANPA—A feature of the Southern Negro Youth Congress' closing activities at year's end, was the national council meeting held here at the Y. W. C. A. and attended by delegates and members from various sections of the South. Thomas Darden, local council chairman, arranged the meeting.

Among the national officers who spoke at either the morning or afternoon session, was Miss Frances Wilberly, Birmingham. She told of plans for celebration of the Congress' third anniversary on February 14, to be held in connection with Negro Youth Week.

Other speakers included Miss Thelma Dale, Washington, D. C.; Edward E. Strong, Birmingham; Raymond Tillman, New Orleans; Albert Seay, Chattanooga; T. R. Broady, director of SNYC publications, Tuskegee institute; Miss Rose Mae Withers, Durham, N. C.; and Dr. James E. Jackson, Jr., Richmond, Va. The following resolutions were adopted.

1. Reorganization of the Congress to include individuals, as well as established organizations, to membership.

2. Endorsing the Afra-American Emancipation Exposition to be held in Chicago July 10-Sept. 10, 1940.

3. That a super-cultural festival be made a permanent presentation depicting the Negro's progress emphasizing the social aspect rather than the artistic.

FOURTH YOUTH CONFAB SLATED FOR APRIL 18

Expect 1,000 Delegates To Attend 4-Day Meet In New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS, March 15—One thousand young people of both races will assemble in New Orleans, April 18-21, as part of the fourth All-Southern Negro Youth conference to further the "right to vote movement" being organized by the Southern Negro Youth congress with the assistance of organizations throughout the South.

With the slogans, "Cast Your Vote in 1940" and "Vote the Youth Ticket," the conference will be designed to further the organization among Southern youth of voting clubs, abolish poll tax campaigns, registration drives, and general understanding of the importance of the ballot.

The conference will afford an opportunity to discuss for the first time on a major scale the organization of 800,000 Race youths of voting age in the United States for independent political action.

Dr. Rayford W. Logan, professor of history at Howard university and director of the voting campaign of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, will lead a symposium on "Balloting for Democracy," and will assist the various state delegations in the discussion on "Attaining the Vote Through Community Action."

Drafting Plans for Youth Conference

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL of the Southern Negro Youth Congress is shown at its recent session at Nashville, Tenn., where final plans were made for the Fourth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference.

One thousand young people are expected to participate in the fourth conference which will be held in New Orleans, La., April 18-21, 1940.

Seated on the front row, left to right, are: Walter D. Parks, Chattanooga; Thomas J. Darden, Nashville; Prof. John Ross, of Fisk University; Dr. James E. Jackson, Jr., Richmond; Raymond R. Tillman, New Orleans; Albert F. Seay, Chattanooga; Miss Thelma Dale, Washington, D. C., and Edward E. Strong, Birmingham.

Southern Negro Youth Hit Draft

Thelma Dale, delegate of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, at a defense conference of leaders of national organizations held on Aug. 1 and 2 in Washington, D. C., expressed the viewpoint of the Negro youth of the South that the proposed Burke - Wadsworth Conscription Bill is a fascist measure and that American democracy can never be truly defended by a jim-crow army, according to Herman H. Long, president of the Congress.

"The Southern Negro Youth Congress," said Mr. Long, "is wholeheartedly in favor of strengthening our national defenses against the possibility of attack from without or the Hitlerizing of our country from within. We are convinced that an army, navy and air corps which does not irradicate the undemocratic jim crow practices against the Negro patriots is not a reliable defender of Democracy.

"We believe that the first steps in

Birmingham, Ala. Digest
August 1, 1940

DOCENA MINERS TAKE PART IN SYNC RALLY

DOCENA.—Members of the Docena Local Union of the United Mine Workers of America were among those who took part in last Sunday afternoon's rally held by the Docena Federation of the Southern Negro Youth Congress at St. Paul's C. M. E. Church here.

The meeting was called to familiarize the community with the activities of the Congress in order to increase the number of Docena youths participating in the work of the Federation. Speakers included both local youth leaders, ministers and representatives from the national office of the Southern Negro Youth Congress.

James W. McCall, a leader in the Docena Federation, spoke on Negro youth and the schools; Dr. James E. Jackson on the role that youth must play in applying the enthusiastic leadership needed for a campaign dealing with the vital problems of the Negro people; and the national president of the SNYC

spoke on the purpose and history of the development of the organization to its present stage. He called attention to the role that the Richmond, Va., council played in the organization of the Negro tobacco workers into CIO unions in which their wages were raised by some $250,000. Rev. Cunningham, a member of the Mulga miners' local union, was also among the speak-

Southern Youth Congress To Gather In New Orleans

1,000 Young People Will Assemble For Three-Day Conference In April—To Organize Voting Clubs and Fight For Abolishment of Poll Tax Campaigns.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 29—One thousand young people will assemble here April 18-21 as a part of the Fourth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference to further the right to vote campaign being waged by the Southern Negro Youth Congress with the assistance of organizations throughout the South. With the slogans, "Cast Your Vote for Youth in 1940" and "Vote the Youth Ticket" the conference is designed to further the organization among young people of voting clubs, registration drives, abolish poll tax campaigns, and general understanding on the part of young people as to the importance of the ballot. The Fourth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference will afford Negro youth an opportunity to discuss for the first time on a major scale the organization of 800,000 young Negroes of voting age in the United States for political action.

Dr. Rayford W. Logan, professor of history at Howard University, and director of the voting program of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity will lead a symposium at the conference on "Balloting for Democracy" and will assist each State delegation in a discussion on "Attaining the Vote through Community Action."

Enthusiastic support of the Southern Negro Youth Congress's efforts to make Negro young people vote conscious has come from national leaders in every field. "I wish to join with you and others in calling the Fourth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference," stated Dr. Marshall A. Talley, Dean of the National B.Y.P.U. and Sunday School Congress, recently. "The Negro youth are surging as bowels of dissatisfaction with regards to their social and economic status all over this land," Dr. Talley further pointed out. "They are also voicing," he continued, "serious indictment against the lethargy and indifference exhibited by race leaders who are in a position to help this situation but who are not doing so. As I see it, you have come to the fore for such a time as this and I trust that you will be able to maintain your usual courage to continue to go forward without fainting."

Among other important leaders who have joined in calling the Fourth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference are: Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute; Dr. Charlotte H. Brown, president of Palmer Memorial Institute; Roscoe Dunjee, editor of the Oklahoma Black Dispatch; Mrs. Margaret D. Bowen, member of the executive committee of the National Pan-Hellenic Council; W. C. Craver, secretary of the Houston Y.M.C.A.; Albert W. Dent, president of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity and director of the Flint Goodrich hospital; John M. Gandy, president of Virginia State college; Wiley A. Hall, secretary of the Richmond Urban League; Charles V. Hendley, Grand Master of the Masons of Alabama; Hartford Knight, United Mine Workers of America; Mrs. Irma Neal Henry special consultant of the WPA of North Carolina; Mrs. John Hope of Atlanta, Ga.; Rev. W. H. Jernagin, president of the National B. Y. P. U. and Sunday School Congress; R. O'Hara Lanier, assistant director of Negro Affairs of the NYA; Dr. Alain Locke, professor of philosophy at Howard University; Dr. John F. Moreland, pastor of the A.M.E. Zion Church of St. Louis; Dr. William S. Nelson, president of Dillard University; G. D. Rogers, president of the Central Life Insurance Co.; Miss E. Ophelia Settle, Department of Sociology, Howard University; Jesse O. Thomas of the National Urban League; Dr. Charles H. Wesley, president of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity; J. B. Watson, president of Arkansas State A. & M. college; Miss Celestine L. Smith of the Y.W.C.A. and Prof. Doxey Wilkerson, vice-president of the American Federation of Teachers.

Youth Parley Expected To Attract 1,200

National Leaders Will Participate In Four-Ply Meet

NEW ORLEANS, — The forces of the Southern Negro Youth Congress are combining in preparation for the fourth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference which will meet here, April 18-21, and is expected to have 1,200 delegates.

The national office, working in collaboration with the Louisiana branch at New Orleans, has obtained a list of outstanding persons who will appear on the four-day program.

Drs. Max Yergan, executive director of the International Committee on South African Affairs; Ruford Logan, professor of history at Howard University; Rajni Patel, head of the Youth Movement of India; Alain Locke, Howard University, F. D. Patterson, Tuskegee Institute, and others will be some of the speakers.

The young people will assemble and make efforts to awaken an interest in youth as to the importance of the ballot and other problems confronting our group in the South.

Dr. J. Max Bond, Dillard University, the Rev. Norman A. Holmes, Central Congregational Church, New Orleans; Jesse O. Thomas, southern field representative, National Urban League; Prof. Dexey Wilkerson, vice-president American Federation Teachers, and Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel, Diocese of New Orleans are a few of the sponsors who indorse the conference and the principles of the Congress.

Some of the highlights included on the program are: a four act drama, written especially for the Conference by Prof. Randolph Edmonds, Dillard University, "The Land of Cotton"; a country-wide art exhibit and a musical festival arranged and supervised by Prof. Frederick Hall.

The congress has sponsored special t[illegible] throughout many Southern [illegible]. Teachers, preachers, civic workers, union leaders and other influential individuals have been drafted into the movement. This was done with the object of interesting young people in the movement and obtaining new delegates from communities that have no Councils set up.

53 COUNCILS FORMED

After the Conference these new delegates will return to their different communities and organize local Youth Councils. Special interest has been given to Mississippi and Louisiana.

There are 53 affiliate Councils located throughout the thirteen Southern States, boasting of an affiliate membership of 500,000 persons.

Iwo Get High Posts at Dixie Youth Meeting

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Dr James E. Jackson from Richmond, Va., of the Carnegie Foundation, and Arthur Price from Nashville, of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, were named two of the six vice chairmen of the Council of Young Southerners, youth affiliate of the Conference for Human Welfare on Tuesday.

At this meeting the name of the group was changed to League for Young Southerners.

Dr. Will W. Alexander, former president of Dillard University, founder and president of the Interracial Commission, and now Farm Security Administrator, Washington, was selected to receive the Thomas Jefferson Award over Maury Maverick.

Ths award is given to the southerner contributing most to the South since the last meeting. In 1938 it went to Hugo Black.

Praises Maverick

Dr. Frank P. Graham, president of the University of North Carolina, in making the award said, "Maury Maverick is the one man in Southern political life who has stood up alone for the antilynch bill and the abolition of the poll tax.

In accepting the award, Mr. Alexander said, "I accept it on behalf of the masses of poor people, black and white, of the rural South, realizing that your interest, like mine, is for them."

In his speech prior to giving the awards, Dr. Graham paid high tribute to Booker Washington, calling him the "Moses of the South" and "man of great brains and moral stature."

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION- 1940

UNITED UNIVERSAL ETHIOPIAN REDEMPTION AND BENEVOLENT MOVEMENT

Ethiopian Movement Group Halt Eviction of Aged Cook

2ND FROM LEFT TO RIGHT— FATHER JOHNSON, LAWYER AND LANE

When suit for the eviction of Mack Lane, 73, and his wife, Ethel, 64, from the two rooms they occupy at 4224 Easton avenue came up in Justice of the Peace Joseph A. Burkes Court at 4107 Easton avenue Wednesday morning, the place was beseiged by a group of colored and white men there in his behalf. They were members of the United Universal Ethiopian Redemption and Benevolent Movement, National and International, at whose kitchen at 22nd and Clark avenue, over 10,000 meals have been served to needy persons of all races during 43 winter days. Lane is the cook at the kitchen who has been unable to find work and gave his services there.

N.Y. West Indians Form Organization

NEW YORK,—(ANP)—The West Indies' National Emergency committee was formed last week by West Indians who fear that military successes of Nazi Germany and the desperate plight of Great Britain will influence American policy toward their Island homes.

Organized to create self-determination in their competitors at home, the committee plans a declaration of principles to be sent o the State Department of the United States as well as to the headquarters of the Pan-American council at Washington. Hope R. Stevens, attorney, is chairman of the committee and H. P. Osborne is secretary.